

THE CENTENNIAL ISSUE

Oklahoma

CENTENNIAL COLLECTORS SERIES: EIGHT OF EIGHT

TODAY



The Power of Place

46 Breathtaking Landscapes to Celebrate This Land We Love **PAGE 109**

Guthrie: Where to be on Statehood Day **PAGE 39**



Your Guide to the 46 Best Books, Films, and CDs **PAGE 87**

Chisholm Trail: The Cowboy Mystique Lives On **PAGE 138**

"Oklahoma is now a state."
— *President Theodore Roosevelt,*
on November 16, 1907

CHICKEN-FRIED STEAK: THE PERFECT BITE **PAGE 161**

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2007

OklahomaToday.com \$4.95



Deep Roots

Much like the color-laden trees of an Oklahoma autumn, ConocoPhillips has deep roots in this state. Our company's history is an integral part of our rich heritage. After all, Bartlesville is where the Phillips Petroleum story began, and Ponca City was the hometown of Conoco. Today, we continue to prosper in this fertile soil thanks to the talent, determination and cooperative spirit of our people and the communities we serve. As we look to the future, we pause to celebrate our state's centennial and value the sense of pride, strength and stability that is – and always has been – rooted in Oklahoma.



96°

95°

The Choctaw Chickasaw

Heritage Corridor



Revisit the 19th century culture of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations. Visit the newly created Choctaw / Chickasaw Heritage Corridor. The trail will take you through southeastern Oklahoma to four historic sites.



Tishomingo

Fort Washita

Madill

LAKE
TEXOMA

Durant

ATOKA
LAKE

Jack Fork Mtns

PINE
CREEK
LAKE

Fort Towson

Millerton

Idabel

Wheelock Academy, Fort Towson, Fort Washita, and the Chickasaw Council House. All sites feature vibrant interpretive exhibits that bring tribal history to life.



96°

95°

Experience Native History

REVISIT THE 19TH CENTURY CULTURE OF THE CHOCTAW AND CHICKASAW NATIONS

From early history the fate of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations have been closely bound. The Chickasaw homelands in western Tennessee, Kentucky, and northern Mississippi brought them into close contact with the Choctaw in central Mississippi. With removal to new homes in Indian Territory, the nations remained neighbors sharing the struggles of rebuilding their lives in present-day Oklahoma. Follow the Choctaw-Chickasaw Heritage Trail to historical sites in southeastern Oklahoma that chronicle the struggles and triumphs of the two nations and discover the importance of transportation in the development of the early Oklahoma.

*Revisit the 19th century culture
of the Choctaw and Chickasaw
Nations. Visit the newly created
Choctaw-Chickasaw Heritage Trail.*



Chickasaw Council House Museum

209 N. Fisher Avenue,
Tishomingo, OK

580.371.3351

The museum is home to one of the largest collections of Chickasaw art, artifacts, and archival material.



Fort Towson Military Park

One mile NE of Ft. Towson
on State Hwy. 70

580.873.2634

From this remote outpost, the fort's garrison monitored Mexico's activities just across the river and protected the Choctaw from Plains Indians to the west.



Fort Washita

15 miles NW of Durant
on State Hwy. 199

580.924.6502

The fort was established to help protect Choctaws & Chickasaws from the Plains Indians, but it also housed U.S. troops bound for the Mexican War.



Wheelock Academy

On Highway 70 in
Millerton, OK

580.746.2139

First a mission school for girls in the late 1800s, the academy now serves as a historical museum for the Choctaw Nation.



Oklahoma Historical Society

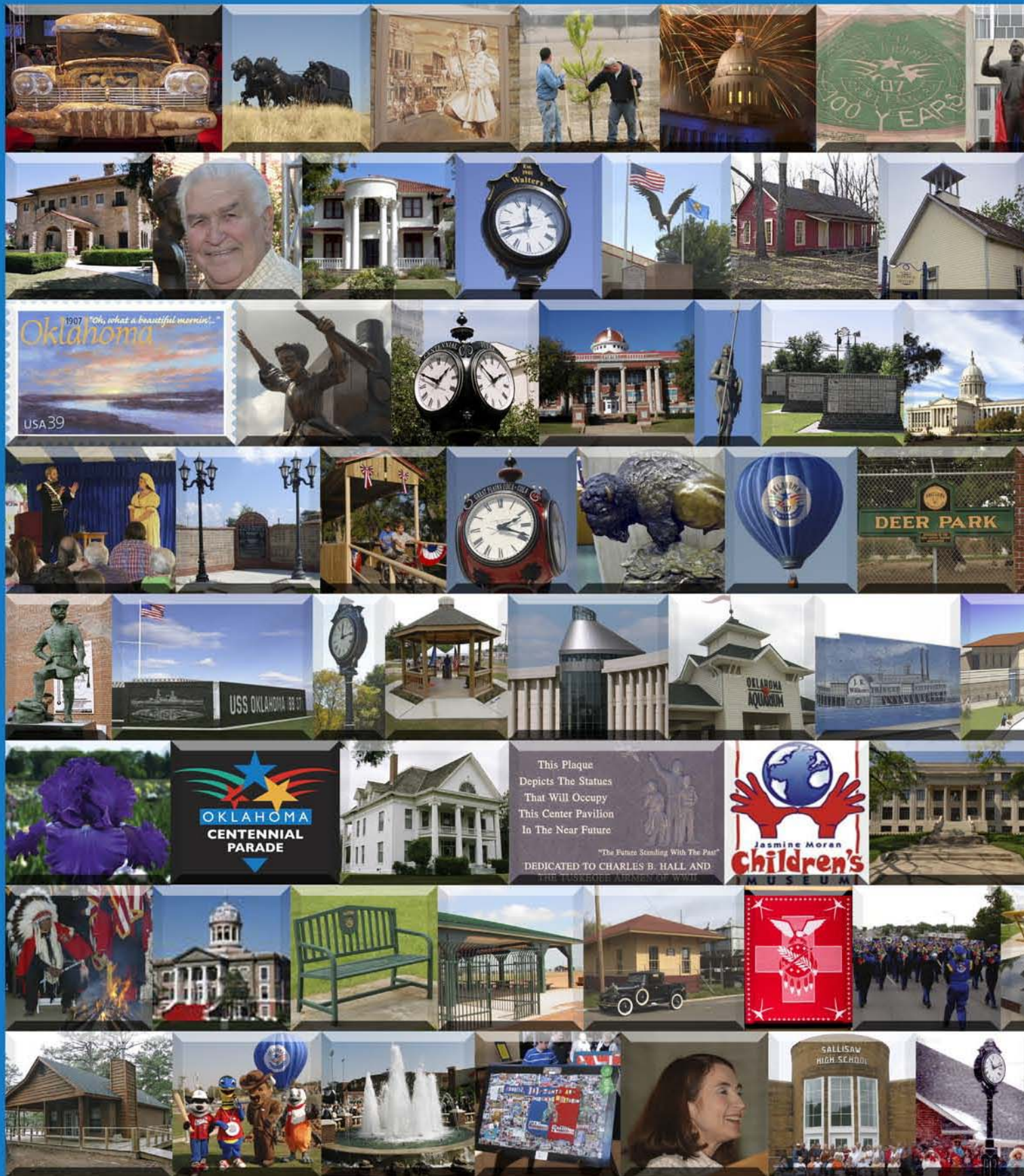
2401 N. Laird Avenue • Oklahoma City, OK 73105

405.521.2491 • www.okhistory.org

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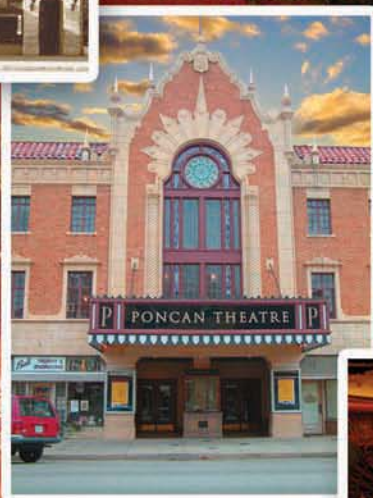
*Thank you Oklahoma for making this Centennial
the most spectacular state commemoration
in our nation's history!*

- The Oklahoma Centennial Commission and Staff

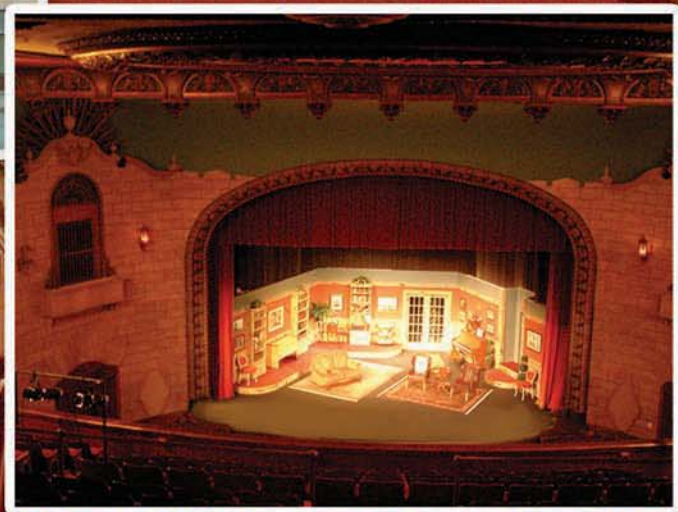
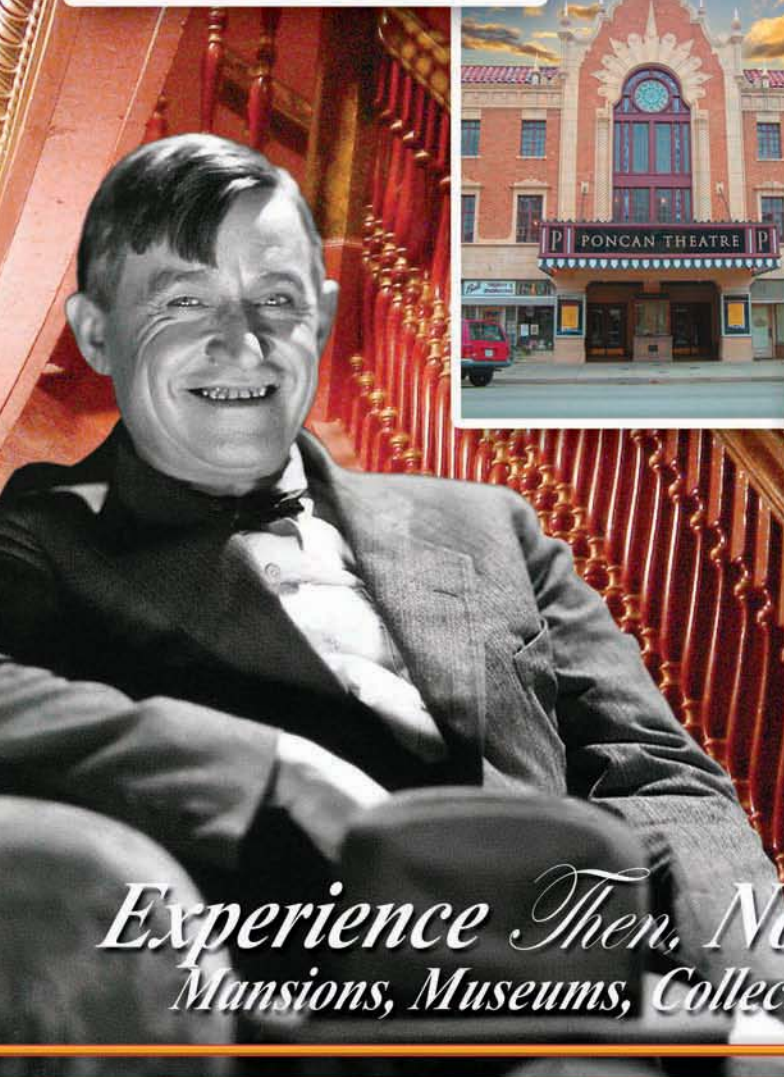


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Oklahoma

"Oklahoma is the heart, it's the vital organ, of our national existence."

—Will Rogers

NOVEMBER • DECEMBER 2007 | VOLUME 57, NUMBER 6

On the cover: A storm approaches a registered Centennial Farm north of Piedmont in Logan County. Centennial Farm designation is given to farms continuously worked by the same family for more than one hundred years. Photograph by Mark W. Nault.



MIKE WIMMER

Hit the Road 27

The **Centennial Celebration** comes home to **Guthrie**, and we have a planner to keep you organized. The **State Capitol** is a must-stop for visitors, while **Oklahoma charities** need your help.



SCOTT RAFFE

Okies 49

Charles Banks Wilson may be Oklahoma's most treasured painter. **N. Scott Momaday** offers words of wisdom, while **Governor Brad Henry** shares his love of family, career, and Will Ferrell.



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Page 78
State Flag Study

Culture 65

Four features explore everything from the **state constitution** to essential **Oklahoma films, books, and CDs**. Plus, **Pulitzer-winning images** and the **Centennial Spectacular** concert.



CHAD LOVE

Page 192
Future Shock!

Outside 95

Twenty-six pages show off the **Oklahoma landscape** in all its scenic glory. The **Chisholm Trail** gets a little respect with a Centennial project. Plus, **deer hunting** without guns or arrows



TOM LUKER

Eat Up 151

There's no beef about it, **chicken-fried steak** rules in Oklahoma. **El Guapo's Cantina** in Tulsa serves hot Mexican food with a side dish of cool, and pie hits the sky at **2 Brothers Pizza** in Arcadia.

In Every Issue

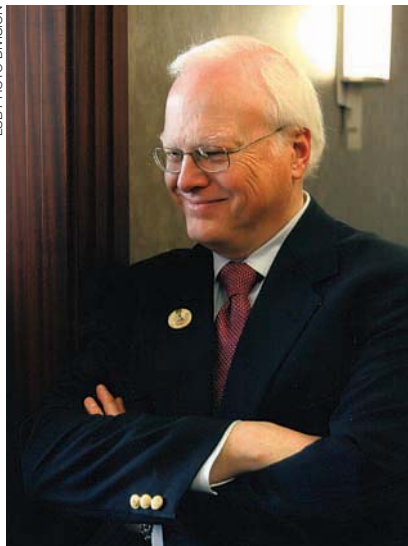
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A luxurious take on state pride
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On the shores of the Arkansas



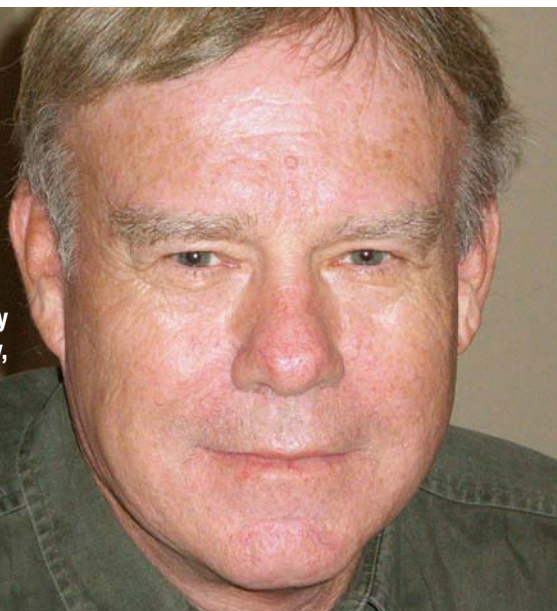
"Because the history

of the Oklahoma Constitution—like the Constitution itself—is long and colorful, the major challenge in writing a short article on the state constitution was writing a short article," says Neal Leader, senior assistant attorney general for the State of Oklahoma, who penned "We, the People" (page 82). Before joining the attorney general's staff twenty-six years ago, Leader served as a law clerk to two Supreme Court justices and taught at the Oklahoma City University School of Law. The memorabilia featured in this issue's article is part of Leader's personal collection of political campaign items. He lives in Norman.

LSB PHOTO DIVISION



"AFTER EATING CHICKEN-FRIED steaks for seven days on the road, I have a lot more admiration for truckers," says Tom Lindley, who wrote "Gravy Train" (page 161). Lindley, a former columnist for *The Oklahoman*, is the managing editor of the *St. Tammany News* in Covington, Louisiana, where he lives with his wife, Mary Lou Strong.



FOR PHOTOGRAPHER **MARK W. Nault**, depicting Oklahoma in its natural wonder has made him something of a storm chaser. Nault, who works for Express Personnel Services, spends his free time in search of severe weather. "It's hard for me to take credit for any storm or landscape photograph other than to say I did what was necessary to properly capture the scene," he says. "It was made by God, and no one can take credit for that." Nault, a first-time contributor to *Oklahoma Today*, has seven images in "Oklahoma Landscapes" (page 109), one of which appears on the cover. Nault lives in Edmond with his son Andrew and wife Carol.

Oklahoma

Since 1956 TODAY

BRAD HENRY, Governor



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First Place, Feature Writing

For a comprehensive list, visit oklahomatoday.com.

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It is a philosophy that has guided Devon for more than 35 years. To be a great company, we must first be a good neighbor. While our relationships and business practices are not always

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reflected on the balance sheet, we believe they eventually show up on the bottom line. Devon is one of the nation's leading oil and natural gas producers, and *we are proud of our Oklahoma heritage.*

WHAT

COUNTS IN BUSINESS IS NOT ONLY

WHAT YOU DO, BUT HOW YOU DO IT.

DRIVE AND INTELLIGENCE ARE IMPORTANT,

BUT WITHOUT INTEGRITY, COMPANIES FAIL.



"One generation plants the tree; another gets the shade."

—Chinese proverb

Tree of Life

At one hundred, Oklahoma has its own family history.



JOHN JERNIGAN

ONE HUNDRED YEARS old, and we're still as fresh as the crisp autumn air that marked our newborn moment. Happy birthday, Oklahoma. You are more beautiful with every passing year, and this one is the grandest yet.

A decade in the planning, more than ten in the making, our state's birthday celebration is now in full force, a mind-boggling array of events and projects that, stitched together, combine to make us a genuine collective unit from corner to corner, mesa to swamp. More than at any other time in Oklahoma history, this year brings all of our communities together on equal footing.

The largest and most impressively implemented of any of the forty-five states' before us, this Centennial commemoration is the offspring of people who consider country and family one and the same.

It's simple.

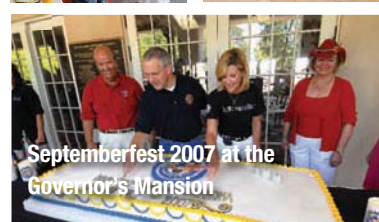
The next generation is born every day, every minute. And the early generation dies just as often. In the pattern of life, we have babies and grow families of our own while parents age and leave us with memories and lessons of times gone by. We have a family history, both

FRED W. MARVEL/OKLAHOMA CENTENNIAL COMMISSION



In late September, the Centennial Chisholm Trail Cattle Drive arrived at Fort Reno for a Centennial celebration.

Biggest issue in Oklahoma Today's history!



Septemberfest 2007 at the Governor's Mansion

in the micro and the macro, and for many of us, it is the thing we are most proud of, the thing that makes us who we are.

At last, Oklahoma has its own fully formed family tree, a complex line of characters and caricatures whose lives were naturally filled with joy and sadness, success and failure. We have our matriarchs, patriarchs, our superstars and hearth keepers, and of course, we have our dysfunctional cousins, all of whom give a rounded and colorful

patina to the Oklahoma lineage.

At the birthday party, the good parents—the Blake Wades, the Lee Allan Smiths, the Brad Henrys of the clan—will be hovering to make sure every detail is spot on, every candle lit, every package wrapped, every party favor distributed. We can thank them for being the consummate hosts of this ultimate statewide birthday party.

And just like an evolving and enlightened family dynamic, it's not good enough for Oklahoma to rely on old habits and ideals or to go about our business—and to continue the metaphor, our family planning—down only familiar paths over the next hundred years.

As much a commemoration of the past, this birthday looks to the future and expects great things of us. The creative arts, governmental responsibility, the energy and agriculture industries, and small business performance and accountability: We can shine even greater in these areas given the right freedom, focus, and incubation.

In all ways, individually and together, let us rise to meet the expectations. The next generation deserves nothing less.

Louisa McCune-Elmore

Louisa McCune-Elmore
mccune@oklahomatoday.com

Statehood Day Best Bets

WHERE TO FOCUS YOUR ENERGIES REQUIRES DECISION-MAKING. HERE ARE MY BEST BETS FOR THE BIG 1-0-0.



Double Standard by Ed Ruscha and Mason Williams

Centennial Spectacular,

November 16: Get thee to a big-screen TV. Tickets are sold out for the star-studded concert at Oklahoma City's Ford Center, but the best seat in the house may be at home. This is the concert you've waited for, and OETA will carry it live.

Guthrie, November 16:

Come early, leave late, maybe even arrange for transportation, but whatever you do, don't miss this nostalgic day of parades and reenactments in Oklahoma's favorite Victorian town. The horses, marching bands, and period dress will remind you of your provenance.

Roots & Ties, Untitled ArtSpace,

November 9 to December 29: A personal favorite of the Centennial season, this art show promises smaller crowds but great things as it brings together a collection of Oklahoma artists who moved to and made it big in Los Angeles.

Feel the Love

Readers give feedback on our stories and tell their own.



We Like Mike

Thank you for a superb story (OKT Profile, July/August 2007). I am proud to be in one of your best presentations ever. The forty-six images ("Depth of Field") are captivating, just absolutely incredible. Great work! Thanks for all you do for so many.

Mike Turpen
Oklahoma City

Losing Carl

My wife and I just received the September/October 2007 edition of *Oklahoma Today*. As always, it is a wonderful publication that helps us stay in touch with our home as we travel the world.

I cannot imagine the challenge of choosing only forty-six people ("Beautiful Minds: 46 Greatest Thinkers in Oklahoma History") to be on the list of Oklahoma's greatest thinkers, but I was very surprised by one omission. Carl Albert worked his way up from a small rural school to the third-highest office in our nation. I cannot think of anyone who embodies our state motto more than the little giant.

J. Denver Herren
Lusaka, Zambia

Tuckered Out

I graduated from Ardmore High School in 1963 and remember many wonderful



summers spent at Lake Murray and trips to Tucker Tower ("Where Are You?" September/October 2007). Thanks for the pictures and the memories.

Sandy Scroggins
Norman

Grand Slam

I wish every person who loves Oklahoma could have a copy of the September/October 2007 issue of *Oklahoma Today*. From cover to cover, this issue is filled with everything I love about our state. You and your staff should be very proud of this gem. Classy and classic, *Oklahoma Today* has been my favorite magazine since I moved here in 2000.

I feel honored that I'm now in a position where I can promote our Grand Lake region through this five-star publication. I'm looking forward to the next in the Centennial Collectors Series and every magazine thereafter.

Deborah Wolek
Grand Lake Association
Grove

Where Is She?

ONE CALIFORNIA READER WASN'T ALWAYS ON THE WEST COAST.

Issue after issue, *Oklahoma Today's* Where Are You? contest receives enthusiastic responses from readers. When Minnie Catherine Costa of Sanger, California, flipped through the September/October edition of the magazine, she instantly knew the Where Are You? answer.

Costa not only provided the correct response—Tucker Tower Nature Center at Lake Murray State Park, as many astute readers knew—but sent us a photo from that very spot. The young girl depicted in the photo is Minnie herself. The tower, she says, was still unfinished at the time of her family's 1936 visit.

Be sure to check out our abbreviated edition of "Where Are You?" on page 196 of the current issue.



Battle of the Last Buffalo

I was browsing through your September/October 2007 issue when I noticed a picture on page 84 ("A Snapshot in Time") of Geronimo skinning a buffalo.

I have seen that picture before under different circumstances. I am an avid reader

of Oklahoma history and a follower of the great 101 Ranch.

In *The Real Wild West* by Michael Wallis, he writes that the three brothers who operated the ranch developed their own newspaper in the town of Bliss, now Marland, and either organized or became a part of the National Editorial Association. They decided to have a big blowout for its members at the ranch.

They built a gigantic arena and seating facilities and used five hundred cowboys and a thousand Indians, including the famous Geronimo. He came in from Fort Sill on the train with seven troopers from the Kansas National Guard.

The purpose of his appearance was to kill the "last buffalo" from horseback with a bow and arrows. History tell us that in reality, Geronimo was raised and lived in the dry, arid lands of Arizona, and the buffalo were long gone from that area. So this was, in truth, his first buffalo.

The story states that he actually was armed with a Winchester rifle and that the first shot missed its mark. The second hit the buffalo in the neck, and a cowboy finished the shooting. However, Geronimo jumped from the car and proceeded to skin it. Later in the day, Geronimo posed for a picture, dated June 11, 1905, under the steering wheel of the car with three other Indians. This is written

They've Got High Hopes

A CHEROKEE COUPLE TOPS OFF A SEVENTY-SEVEN-COUNTY TOUR WITH A BLACK MESA ASCENT.

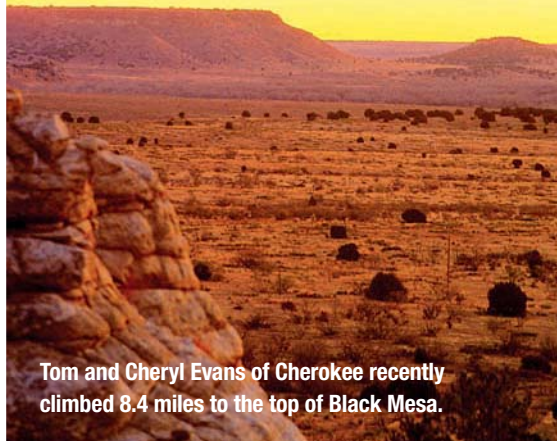
Tom and Cheryl Evans of Cherokee are Oklahoma travelers—and then some. The couple, on a quest to see each of Oklahoma's seventy-seven counties during the Centennial year, is nearing the goal. At press time, only a few counties remained. "We're saving the far southeast area for a fall foliage drive," says Tom.

As part of their tour, the Evans are making sure to stop and smell the roses in each county. In early September, the Evans trekked to the top of Black Mesa in Cimarron County. "At 8.4 miles roundtrip, it definitely made for a unique memory of Cimarron County!" Tom says.

KIM BAKER



Tom and Cheryl Evans of Cherokee recently climbed 8.4 miles to the top of Black Mesa.



on page 251 of Wallis' book.

I am therefore led to believe that the picture you ran might have been taken at the 101 Ranch instead of at Fort Sill.

Bill Grant

Executive Director, Kiamichi Country Wilburton

Finding Julia

Kudos to everyone who contributed to the wonderful September/October 2007 issue of *Oklahoma Today*. I read it from cover to cover and learned more about my home state in this one issue than I have in my entire life. Thanks to Julia Kirt for mentioning historic downtown Cordell. I have lived here all my life, and there is no better place on earth than Oklahoma.

Sherrill Morris
Cordell

Correction

In the September/October issue, we identified a dancer in a photo on page 44 as a member of the Norahua Mexican Folkloric Dancers group. The dancer in the photo, Dulce Angeles, is from the Norman dance troupe Los Niños de España y Mexico.

Oklahoma Today welcomes the views of readers. Letters are subject to editing and must include name, address, and a daytime phone number. Send letters to: Oklahoma Today, Attn: Editor, 120 North Robinson, Suite 600, Oklahoma City, OK 73102, or fax to (405) 230-8650. Address electronic mail to letters@oklahomatoday.com.

PHOTO CREDIT
Culture

A Snapshot in Time

In the days leading to statehood, Oklahoma was a land of extremes, from wild and woolly to suited-up for success.



Buffalo Man
A legendary snapshot appears in this page's "Snapshot in Time" column. The photo, taken in 1905, shows a man in a cowboy hat and suit, standing in front of a large crowd of people at a fair or rodeo.

Wild of the West
The days leading to statehood were a time of extremes. The wild west was a time of lawlessness and chaos. The days leading to statehood were a time of lawlessness and chaos. The days leading to statehood were a time of lawlessness and chaos.



Just the Facts
A legendary snapshot appears in this page's "Snapshot in Time" column. The photo, taken in 1905, shows a man in a cowboy hat and suit, standing in front of a large crowd of people at a fair or rodeo.



Hard-Working Seal
The seal of the Oklahoma Territory, featuring a Native American figure and the words "Oklahoma Territory".



March On
A large crowd of people gathered in a field, possibly for a fair or rodeo.

BOK » Proud to be a part of Oklahoma's history.

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1910 Several oil men form **Exchange National Bank**, later renamed Bank of Oklahoma.

1918 Establishes Oklahoma's first **Trust Company**.

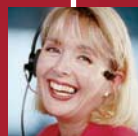
1953 Bank of Oklahoma opens first **drive-in bank**.



1975 Installs first **TransFund Banking Center**. Today we offer customers the largest network of **FREE** ATMs in the state.

1983 **BOK Mortgage** opens first office; now Oklahoma's **#1** Mortgage Lender.

1984 BOK opens **first branches**. Today, BOK offers the convenience of over **75** branches statewide.



1995 BOK introduces the convenience of **24-Hour ExpressBanking** – it's full service banking by phone 24-hours a day, 365 days a year – even holidays.

1991 BOK introduces **BancOklahoma Investment Center*** in each branch location. This allows customers to take advantage of traditional as well as alternative investments.



1993 Bank of Oklahoma opens **first full-service supermarket location**. BOK now has **35** supermarket branches.



1998 Bank of Oklahoma launches **www.bok.com**, including **free Online Banking**. Plus you can open accounts, apply for loans or mortgages, even trade online.



2005 BOK receives naming rights for downtown Tulsa's events arena – the **BOK Center** opening September 2008.



2010 BOK celebrates **100 years of excellence!**



As we move into the next 100 years, one thing you can count on is that Bank of Oklahoma will be here. Still dedicated to providing the resources and expertise businesses and communities need to grow and prosper over the long term. **You're better off at BOK now and in the future!**



*BancOklahoma Investment Center is a division of BOSC, Inc., an affiliate of Bank of Oklahoma, N.A. Securities offered by BOSC, Inc., a Registered Investment Advisor, a registered broker/dealer, member NASD/SIPC. Insurance is offered by BOSC Agency, Inc., an affiliated agency. Securities and insurance are not insured by the FDIC, are not deposits of, and are not guaranteed by any bank affiliate. Investments are subject to risks, including possible loss of principal amount invested.

Busy Bodies

The state is gearing up for its final Centennial celebrations, and *Oklahoma Today* is along for the ride.

Oklahoma is everywhere!

ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL
At the Epcot International Food & Wine Festival, three large Wall of Wonder murals depict Oklahoma history.

Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins, tourism executive director Hardy Watkins, and Oklahoma Department of Commerce director Natalie Shirley at the food and wine festival

Mary Beth Moore of Ponca City Tourism and *Oklahoma Today* account executive Kimberly Hickerson at the Governor's Conference on Tourism

Oklahoma City artist Benjamin Harjo Jr. and Gena Howard of the American Indian Cultural Center & Museum at the food and wine festival

The Main Dish

THE EPCOT INTERNATIONAL FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL SHINES A SPOTLIGHT ON OKLAHOMA.

On September 28, Oklahoma became the first and only state ever featured at the **EPCOT INTERNATIONAL FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL** in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The festival—which runs through November 11—typically focuses on international food, but this year's event also includes entertainers, artists, and chefs who hail from the Sooner State.

Oklahomans like artist Benjamin Harjo Jr., the Oklahoma Fancy Dancers, fiddler Jana Jae, and chef Kurt Fleischfresser are all contributing to the event's Okie vibe.

Centennial Commission executive director Blake Wade says, "The Epcot experience gives tourists a brief but authentic taste of our history and heritage, and of course the wonderful foods that reflect that heritage. After sampling this small piece of Oklahoma, they tell us they're eager to see and experience the real thing. There's a reason Oklahoma is the first state to be featured at Epcot."

A FIRESTORM OF EVENTS took *Oklahoma Today* on an exciting ride around the state in early fall, leading up to the Centennial at a fever pitch.

The 2007 State Fair of Oklahoma Centennial Expo kicked off with a Centennial one-two punch. The Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department and *Oklahoma Today* represented the state in the Oklahoma Expo Hall during the eleven days of the event.

"Working at the fair is a great way to interact with the public," says Joan Henderson, the magazine's publisher, "not to mention our subscribers. Many of them stop by our booth to visit and share their feelings about *Oklahoma Today*."

'The 2007 State Fair of Oklahoma Centennial Expo kicked off with a Centennial one-two punch.'

EASY STREET.



As you explore Oklahoma during our Centennial in 2007, be sure to check out Tulsa, a surprising stop where fun comes easy.

Discover the vast venues of shopping and dining, take in a ball game, visit America's Favorite Zoo,

be dazzled by a Broadway production, or theater and music under the stars.

A state-of-the-art planetarium, classy casinos, golfing, hiking, watersports, rodeo, deco, and world class museums.

Tulsa, a bright spot in the middle of a long road. www.visittulsa.com / 1.800.558.3311

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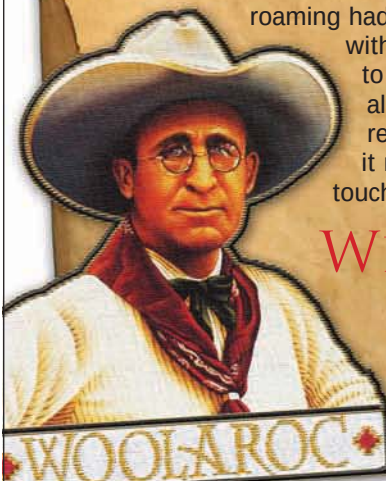


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Aaron Martin of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum and *Oklahoma Today* account executive Elizabeth Erwin at the tourism conference in Tulsa



A Wall of Wonder at the Epcot International Food & Wine Festival

Next on the agenda was an event that brought recognition to a worthy endeavor. On September 5, editor in chief Louisa McCune-Elmore moderated a lecture entitled "The Business of Creativity" during the 2007 Creativity in Motion Prize ceremony at OU's Meacham Auditorium.

"The Creativity in Motion Prize is a very progressive and idealistic process and award," says McCune-Elmore. "I am so proud to have been associated with it since its inception."

Finally, *Oklahoma Today* was an official sponsor of this year's Governor's Conference on Tourism September 30 through October 2 at the Renaissance Hotel in Tulsa. "For us, it's a great way to spend time with our advertisers while supporting tourism within the state," Henderson says.

With *Oklahoma Today* involved with everything from creativity to state pride, can Statehood Day be far behind?

—Vallery Brown



MEET OKLAHOMA.

His name is Bart Fletcher. Married 24 years. A daughter in college. Proud graduate of Pryor High School. Lives for "fishing and four-wheeling." Also known to raise a few award-winning pigs when his daughter was in FFA. Got a job 21 years ago at a firm that makes paper for drywall. Began as an entry-level Helper, then Loader, then Stock Engineer. Now, he's an Electrician. Does preventive maintenance. Troubleshoots instrumentation and pressure controls. Always on-call, 24/7/365, whatever it takes to keep the plant operational and the equipment in fine-tune.

Bart is just one part of Oklahoma's most treasured resource: our people. Those men and women that make our state great. Individuals that exemplify our native strengths of tenacity, integrity, and ingenuity.

Like other economic development organizations in Oklahoma, we are tasked with recruiting new industries to our state. It's a complex and difficult job trying to convince a business to locate their operations here. But, it becomes a whole lot easier when they meet someone like Bart.

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"There may come a time when a lass needs a lawyer, but diamonds are a girl's best friend."

—from *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*

By Cristi Laquer

The Best for Last

Oklahoma Today recommends these memorable Centennial gifts.



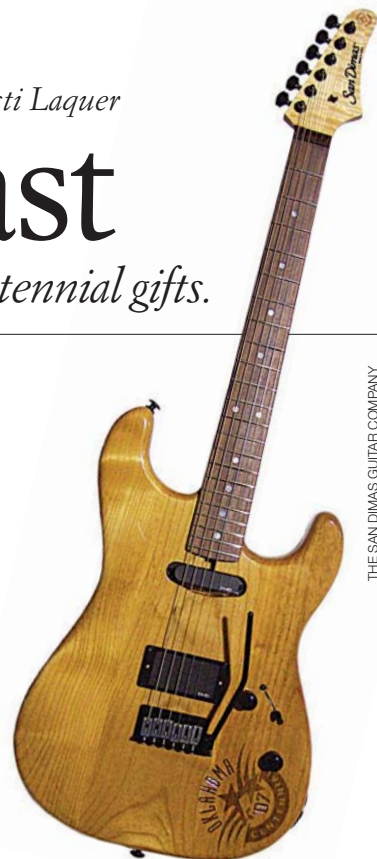
CUT TO THE CHASE

Any urban cowboy or cowgirl will appreciate the official **Centennial folding knife** made in silver with gold trim and presented in a wooden box carved with the Centennial logo. \$249. Oklahoma Centennial merchandise, (800) 946-4011 or usaspe.com.



HAPPY MEAL

Fine craftsmanship is tangible in these numbered, **limited-edition plates**, the Centennial logo etched in gold on fine white porcelain. Whether hung on a wall or used to present the best barbecue around, these plates will serve you well year after year. \$40.



THE SAN DIMAS GUITAR COMPANY

MUSIC MAKERS

These limited-edition instruments—seventy-seven of each—are sure to delight Oklahoma music makers. The **San Dimas Centennial guitar and bass** each have the Centennial logo etched into their wood finishes. Guitar, \$1,907; bass, \$2,207.



ON GUARD

Kelly Haney's statue, *The Guardian*, is the crown atop the State Capitol dome. The Oklahoma Centennial Commission brings it to you with this signed and numbered bronze replica, twenty-two inches tall atop an Oklahoma granite base. \$1,595.



TREASURE CHEST

Just in time for Christmas, these **Centennial medallion coins** designed by Oklahoma City artist Benjamin Harjo Jr. come already boxed. The limited-edition collectibles are available in sterling silver gold plate, \$200, and bronze, \$150.



SMILING FACES

Keep track of time as the clock ticks down to the Bicentennial with these **men's and ladies' watches** with the Centennial logo on their faces. Trimmings in silver and gold but cheaper than a Rolex, they are an elegant expression of state pride. \$99.

The Brownstones at

Maywood Park

Δ T R I Δ N G L E D E V E L O P M E N T

The Brownstones at Maywood Park set a new benchmark for quality living in Downtown Oklahoma City. With floor plans ranging from 2,400-3,500 sq. feet, this urban development will reinvent life as we know it. For more information about this project, visit www.reinventokc.com or contact Brenda Craiger at the Triangle Development leasing office, 415 N. Broadway, Suite 100, Oklahoma City, Ok 73102. Phone: 405.605.1000

Reinvent: The Kitchen Fire



"We protect and maintain this historic property because it represents Oklahoma."
—Mike McAuliffe, Friends of the Mansion president

People's House

There's no place like home at the Oklahoma Governor's Mansion.

By Vallery Brown | Photography by Stu Ostler



PARLOR GAMES

The Oklahoma Room is on the first floor of the Governor's Mansion. The State Seal rug was added to the mansion's décor during Frank Keating's administration.

EVERYONE KNOWS OLD homes need upkeep. It isn't cheap, but the rewards pay off, and that's certainly the case for Oklahoma's official residence, the Governor's Mansion.

For more than twenty years following statehood, Oklahoma's governors lived in private residences because the state legislature was unable to come up with the money to build a home for the head of state.

Overflowing coffers and profits of the oil boom's beginnings in the early 1900s changed things. Oil derricks on the capitol's south lawn weren't the only evidence;

the boom also provided the revenues that finally enabled the state government to allocate funds to construct a governor's residence in 1927.



The south porch of the Governor's Mansion

In October 1928, Governor Henry Johnston dedicated the new mansion and became the first governor to reside in the "people's house."

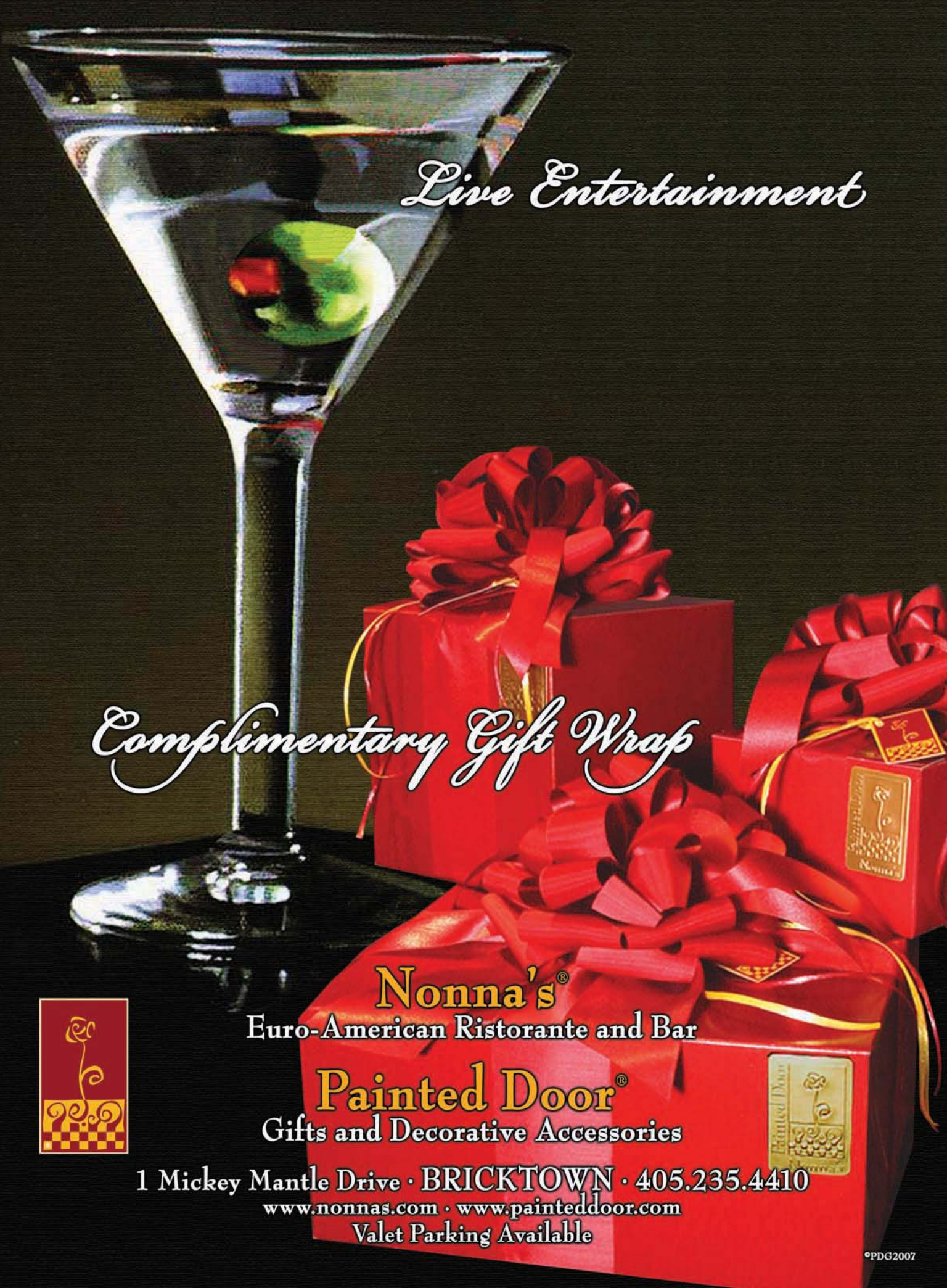
Conceived by architect Solomon Layton—who also designed the State Capitol and Skirvin Hotel, among many other acclaimed buildings in central Oklahoma—the Governor's Mansion is a one-of-a-kind home.

Constructed in a Dutch colonial style, the red tile gambrel roof and double chimneys give the home its unique look. Its Carthage limestone exterior was chosen



Dollars and Sense

Keeping things beautiful always comes with a price tag, and the Governor's Mansion is no exception. The mansion's operations are funded by the state, and Friends of the Mansion raises another \$200,000 per year. That money helps maintain the mansion's art collection, beautify its interior and exterior, and organize special events like Septemberfest.



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Deck the Walls

Starting in early November and illuminating the night sky through the first of the year, the Governor's Mansion becomes a dizzying array of lights, evergreens, and holiday color. White lights are meticulously wrapped around the trees on the mansion grounds and threaded through bushes to provide a warm holiday glow.



Woven into the carpet of the mansion's staircase are the names of Oklahoma's governors and the years of their administrations.



The original mansion design

Open House

Touring the people's house is a must. Located one block east of the State Capitol, the Governor's Mansion is a stone's throw from state government in action. 820 Northeast Twenty-third Street in Oklahoma City. Tours, noon to 2 p.m. on Wednesdays through November 14. The Governor's Mansion is closed for the holidays, reopening February 6. (405) 522-8871 or gov.ok.gov/mansion.php.

to match the limestone of the State Capitol.

The now-twelve-room mansion was originally built with nineteen rooms within its 14,000 square feet. It contains several original features, including a walnut buffet, maple floors, and leaded glass doors. And then there's the famous swimming pool in the shape of Oklahoma.

"You can quickly swim from Boise City in the Panhandle to Broken Bow in the east," says writer Bob Burke, who coauthored *A History of the Oklahoma Governor's Mansion* with Betty Crow in 2005.



recently during the Keating administration from 1995 to 2003.

"Cathy Keating's huge contribution during her husband's administration is the pinnacle of the rebirth of the mansion," says Burke.

When the Keatings moved into the house in 1995, it was in a severe state of disrepair. A leaky roof, broken furniture, poor air conditioning—the list was lengthy and expensive.

"The money was appropriated to build the home, but once it was funded, there wasn't much to furnish it or keep it updated," says Cathy Keating. "The house needed Bob Vila to adopt it."

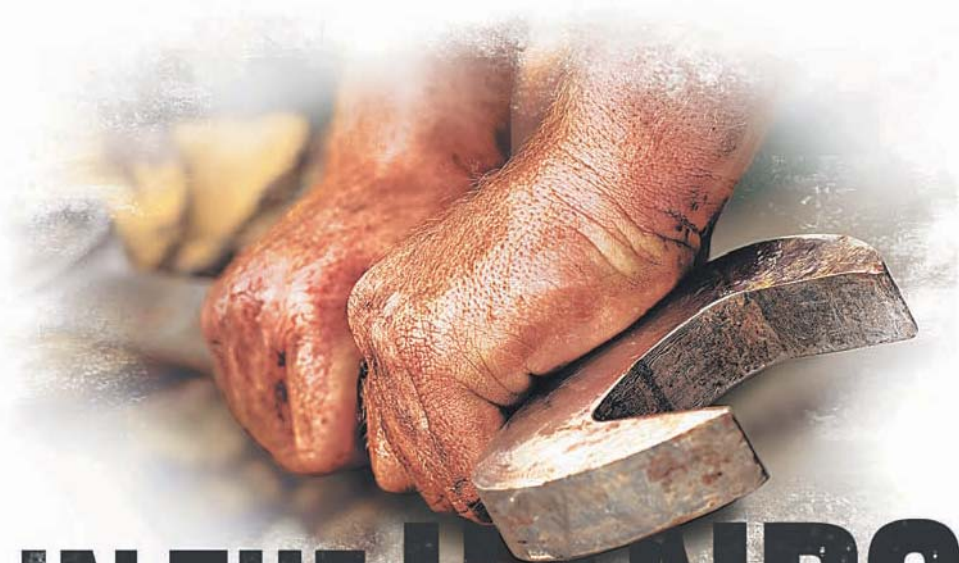
Keating began researching other governor's mansions across the country and came up with the idea for Friends of the Mansion, a nonprofit that collects donations for its upkeep and preservation. It took more than one year and nearly \$3 million to fully renovate and furnish the home, but the results are extraordinary.

"We really did make it the people's house," says Keating.

THE THREE-STORY mansion has undergone two extensive renovations in its history, one during J. Howard Edmondson's governorship of the 1950s and '60s and most



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Hit the Road

"Today, the Oklahoma State Capitol is one of the most beautiful government buildings in the country." —former state senator Charles Ford

Destination Now

Per Capitol

As Statehood Day approaches, a capitol tour guide tells all.

CIRCULAR MOTION

The five-million-pound dome that crowns the Oklahoma State Capitol building was finally added in 2002. Measuring eighty feet in diameter, the dome peaks 190 feet above the first floor of the rotunda. Some 9,000 pieces of glass and more than a mile of lead comprise the state seal at the top of the dome.

BILL PARKS HAS conducted countless tours of the State Capitol, giving visitors dozens of facts and fielding questions ranging from how much the marble pillars marking the State Supreme Court weigh (10,000 pounds each) to which state has the highest Indian population (Oklahoma).

Such insight has qualified Parks to tackle a timely question: If you had only twenty-four hours in which to cram one hundred years of history, where would you want to be on Statehood Day?

That's easy, Parks says. "The Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum, the new Oklahoma History Center, and the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. Those are the three I would recommend you see if you had only one day."

Of course, Parks says any Centennial tour should include a visit to the capitol, which well-traveled tourists tell him ranks as one of the top statehouses in the nation.

"People need to see what the capitol looks like so they can be proud of it," he says.

On November 16, Parks expects many will be in Oklahoma City to visit the capitol. He suggests they check out the state seal and constitution, Hall of Governors, and capitol artwork.

Sure, there's more to see, says Parks, but he wants to save something for the tour.

—TOM LINDLEY

The State Capitol will be open on Statehood Day, November 16. 2300 Lincoln Boulevard in Oklahoma City, (405) 521-3356.



"I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver." —*Maya Angelou*

The gifts of the season are better given than received.

THE HOLIDAY SEASON is fast approaching, which means shopping, traffic, budgets, wrapping, then doing it all over again. Before Scrooge sets in and the budget runs out, consider taking a moment to think about what really matters: **giving**. These Oklahoma organizations would love your help this holiday season. We've given a total of \$77, but you can set your own limit. Whether you're donating money, toys, school supplies, or time, it's all about finding a cause that makes you feel warm and fuzzy, then returning the favor.

—Rachel Wright

Keep on Giving



PARENT CHILD CENTER OF TULSA

The Parent Child Center of Tulsa helps 400 local families affected by child abuse and neglect have a happy holiday season by encouraging participation in their Angel Tree program. Infants, toddlers, and youngsters come up with a wish list of books, clothes, or toys, then donors pick a child from the list, purchase items, and bring them to the center. parentchildcenter.org. **\$11.50** — books



TULSA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Tulsa Habitat for Humanity is ready to put a hammer in the hands of willing volunteers. If manual labor in the cold isn't tempting, an online donation to the Family Services program is also welcome. Classes on money management, family and life skills, and home safety and maintenance ensure new homeowners a smooth transition. habitat-tulsa.org. **\$15** — monetary donation



THE CHILDREN'S CENTER

With a Multipurpose Activity Center and Park under construction, the Children's Center in Bethany needs financial assistance. Sending Christmas cards with designs by the center's patients is a unique way to give. It doesn't hurt that *The Bourne Ultimatum*'s Matt Damon is a Children's Center supporter, too. tccokc.org. **\$10** — one pack of cards



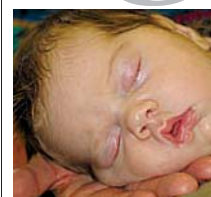
THE OKLAHOMA CITY RESCUE MISSION

The Oklahoma City Rescue Mission needs fifty volunteers to help serve food and distribute gifts at their annual Deck the Halls Banquet at 4 p.m. on December 21. The dinner provides the poor and homeless in Oklahoma City a warm meal, gifts, and a Christmas worship service. Personal care items and presents for adults are most needed. cityrescue.org. **\$15** — personal care items



RAIN OKLAHOMA

RAIN Oklahoma operates an Angel Tree for area individuals or families who are HIV positive and meet income requirements. Last year, more than 200 Oklahoma City and Tulsa area residents received gifts from generous neighbors. This year, organizers say cash donations, volunteering, or adopting an angel or two would help the cause. rainoklahoma.org. **\$12.50** — gift card for an angel



INFANT CRISIS SERVICES

Serving some 900 families during the holiday season, Infant Crisis Services in Oklahoma City proves a donation-worthy organization. From Thanksgiving until Christmas, each child who visits the center receives a new gift and necessities. In addition to toys, books, craft supplies, bottles, and blankets make great holiday donations. infantcrisis.org. **\$13** — new toy

Get This!

Grand Olde Time

Get ye to the Boare's Head Feaste at the Castle of Muskogee. Henry VIII will preside over a four-course meal of Renaissance foods accompanied by strains of the minstrel's lute. November 17 at 7 p.m. Tickets must be purchased in advance. **\$29.95**. (918) 687-3625 or okcastle.com.



SCOTT TROTTER



Fun *and* Games

Kids' stuff is precisely the point at this new party spot.

FORGET THE CHAOS of a big-toothed rat singing to a packed room of pizza-stained kids. Relief is on its way.

Dawn McKinley is bravely opening a kid's play extravaganza where no one has opened one before. Moore's new party spot, **Nothin' But Fun Kidz**, promises a delightful world of family play, which is just what the children ordered.

Nothin' But Fun Kidz will be organized into zones within the 11,625 square feet of space, including one for babies, toddlers, big kids, and birthday parties. But parents can have fun, too.

"This is not a drop-off situation," McKinley says. Parents have to stick with their kids. But family interaction is all part of the concept. "Come on in and be a kid yourself," she says.

The play center will also include a café with salad bar, kid-friendly food and drink, and a children's retail boutique. And there's more.

"I'm trying to have that balance of physical play and imagination play," McKinley says.

Imagination gets big play in the dress-up zone, with costumes and a stage. A mini

grocery store encourages playing house, while an activities room supports arts and crafts, story time, and "parent and me" classes, all of which will be offered at night for working parents, who played a big role in McKinley's planning process.

As a working mother, she appreciates the gift of a clean, safe, entertaining place to bring her daughter for family fun.

With the opening of Nothin' But Fun Kidz, the days of children's bored sighs are numbered around Moore.

—Raya-Gabrielle Ramsey

Nothin' But Fun Kidz is located at 713 North Moore in Moore. (405) 735-9900 or nothinbutfunkidz.com.

ADULT PERSPECTIVE

OWNER DAWN MCKINLEY TELLS US WHAT SHE'D DO AT HER NEW BUSINESS IF SHE WERE STILL A KID.

"If I were a three-year-old, I'd be thinking about the fact that I could run around and climb on anything I wanted. In the dress-up zone, I'd probably dress up as a princess. I'd be going straight for the bling-bling," says McKinley.

ORCA COAST



Children will have a blast on the large-scale play equipment at Nothin' But Fun Kidz in Moore.

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19!**

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Hot Spot



Santa Claus and carolers will bring the holiday spirit to downtown Guthrie during Territorial Christmas activities.



Old Vic

*Oklahoma's first capital celebrates
all things Victorian during the holidays.*

**Guthrie
rocks!**

EVERY WINTER, GUTHRIE
becomes a relic of the past.

In a nod to its role as the
first state capital, this central
Oklahoma community cel-
brates Christmas for more than a month
during **Territorial Christmas**. The festival,
which begins after Thanksgiving, includes
parades, a reenactment of the territorial
governor's election, home tours, and *A Ter-
ritorial Christmas Carol* at Pollard Theatre,
an annual sellout in which Charles Dickens'
A Christmas Carol production is given an
Oklahoma land run twist.

Perhaps most notably, Guthrie's down-
town reverses time during the second and
third Saturdays in December, when folks
walk the streets in Victorian-era clothes,
a nice companion to the Victorian archi-
tecture downtown.

"We dress up in our Victorian clothes,
hop in the car, and go downtown fairly
early," says Clarence "Smitty" Watts, who
dons a top hat and suit with tails every year
while his wife Shirley wears a Victorian-era
dress she made herself.

The Watts helped bring the idea of a
Victorian walk to Guthrie in 1995 from
Geneseo, Illinois, which conducts a similar

event. In the beginning, just a few brave
souls donned styles reminiscent of the era,
generally accepted as 1837 to 1901, when
Queen Victoria ruled the British Empire.

"Now they're coming out of the wood-
work," says Clarence Watts of Guthrie's
would-be Victorians. —Ryan McNeill

*For more information about the Territorial
Christmas Celebration, contact the Guthrie
Chamber of Commerce. (405) 282-1947 or
guthrieok.com.*

Window on the World

GREETING CARDS COME TO LIFE
IN GUTHRIE DURING TERRITORIAL
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS.

One of the most gawked-over draws of
Guthrie's **VICTORIAN WALK** are the storefront
windows of restaurants and retailers. On the
nights of December 8 and 15, locals dressed
to the nines Victorian style will stand in shop
windows to beckon frost-nipped strollers into
their warm establishments. Little girls wrapped
snugly in their beds while Grandmother reads
to them and Santa Claus painting a self-portrait
are a few of the scenes window shoppers have
seen in years past.

—VALLERY BROWN

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"I want to walk up to people and ask them, 'What's the finest hotel in Oklahoma City?' and hear them answer, every time, 'The Colcord.'" —Jeff Erwin, general manager

A Modern Classic

Retro charm meets urban style at Oklahoma City's first boutique hotel.

EVERYTHING IS A balancing act for the **Colcord Hotel**, Oklahoma City's first boutique hotel housed in its first skyscraper. This new facility hosts a virtual yin-yang of personalities—historic and modern, simple and extravagant, business and pleasure—by mixing the best of Oklahoma hospitality with the latest in contemporary design.

Property developer and Tulsan Paul Coury initially had his on eye on the Skirvin building in 2002. City planners liked Coury's ideas but felt another building would better benefit from his boutique treatment, a distinct style he trademarked with the creation of Tulsa's Ambassador Hotel in 1999. Coury

was quickly introduced to the Colcord, a twelve-story art deco building listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In October 2006, the Colcord Hotel opened its doors, providing a lavish hotel experience unique to the downtown cityscape.

"The Colcord is somewhere between a W and a Four Seasons hotel. W Hotel would be a little too over the top, and the Four Seasons would be a little too conservative for Oklahoma City. We needed a balance," says Coury.

Each of the Colcord's 108 rooms features beds with plush Euro-top mattresses, pillowy down duvets, crisp white linens, and a one-of-a-kind construction that provides a slightly elevated angle optimal for super-comfortable reading and relaxing.

Always plugged in? Each room includes a thirty-two-inch plasma screen television, complimentary Wi-Fi, an alarm clock with iPod docking station, and an ultracool pod coffeemaker. Guests can also enjoy a little pampering in the spa-inspired bathrooms with large steam showers, granite vanities, and soft microfiber robes.

"We have the ability at the Colcord to get to know our guests, know their preferences, and anticipate their needs. To me, that is the ultimate in luxury," says general manager Jeff Erwin. In addition to a good night's rest, the hotel offers fine dining at Soleil Restaurant and XO Lounge, located

The World Is Your Oyster Bar AN OLD FAVORITE RETURNS.

A casualty of the Colcord renovation was the **COLCORD OYSTER BAR**, an after-work pit stop that served up cold brews and oysters on the half shell from 1980 to 2005. Even the Colcord Hotel's new upscale Soleil Restaurant and XO Lounge didn't quite capture the after-five business crowd. To reel in the business, the Colcord Oyster Bar has been resurrected within Soleil's walls with the addition of a larger bar, an upgraded indoor/outdoor patio, and a fresh seafood menu sure to equal a splashing good time. (405) 601-3600 or soleil-xo.com.



in the building's basement.

Aside from the \$17 million renovations, the unsurpassable downtown views could be the hotel's biggest draw. Traveling this holiday? Book a room on the south side of the building to experience an exceptional view of the Myriad Botanical Gardens' Christmas light display.

—Brooke Adcox

The Colcord Hotel's rates are between \$149 and \$799 per night. 15 North Robinson Avenue in Oklahoma City. (405) 601-4300 or colcordhotel.com.

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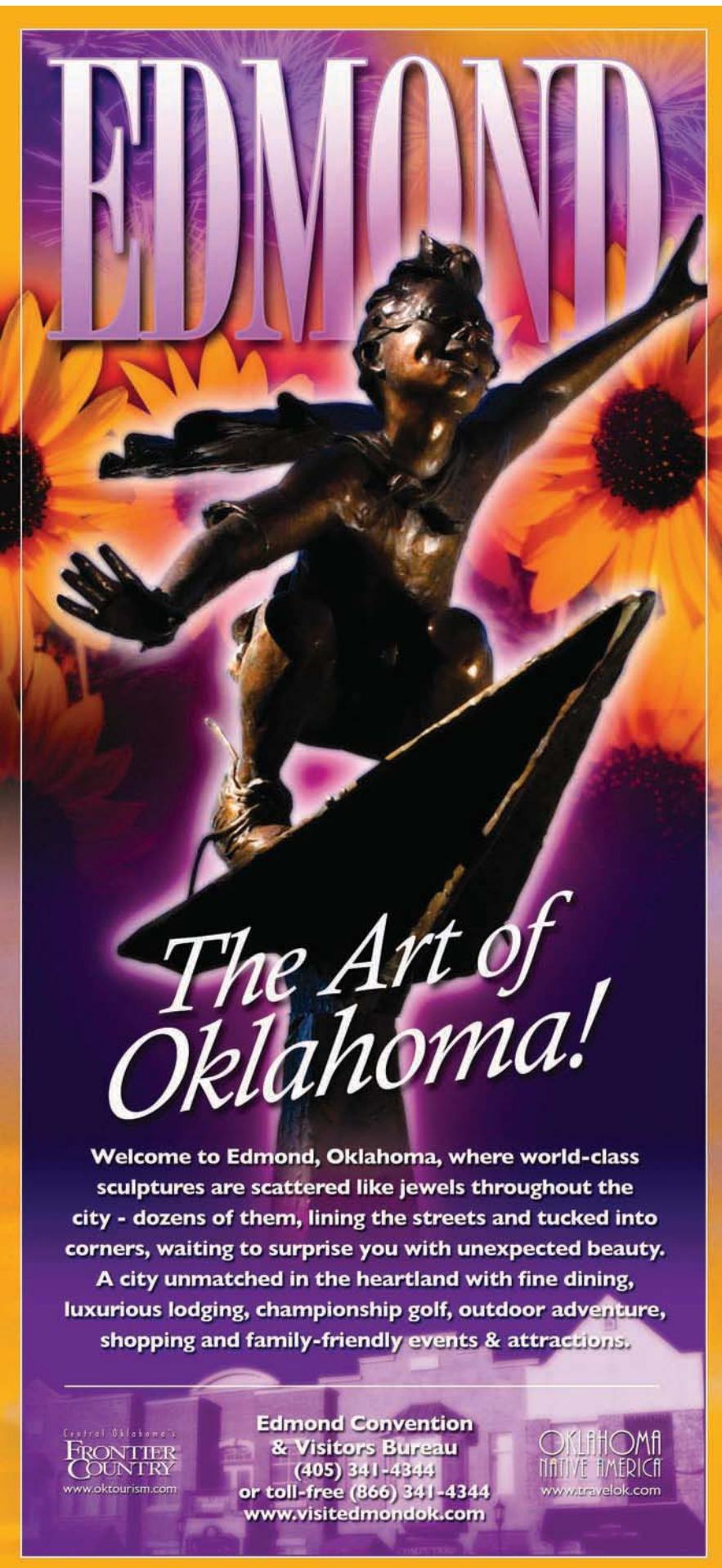


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Festival



One for the Books

Literary stars shine over the Red Dirt Festival.

IN NOVEMBER, SOME of the state's literary "stars"—Rilla Askew, Anna Myers, and Barbara Snow Gilbert among them—will return to their red dirt roots to inspire others.

Shawnee's third **Red Dirt Book Festival** has a slate of seventy-three illustrious Oklahoma writers and presenters. Genres from romance to historical nonfiction will be represented in workshops to help writers find a market for their work.

"All our writers are either from Oklahoma or have some connection to the state," says Julia Harmon, festival director. "They come because they're interested in promoting reading."

It's the third biennial festival, brought about when the Pioneer Library System chose a festival over a book fair. The first festival in 2003 focused on panel discussions. Since then, the program committee has asked writers to submit proposals for individual workshops to go along with the festival theme. This year's is "Oklahoma Character."

"We'll include discussion on the character of Oklahoma—and its characters, too," Harmon says. "We'll talk about how Oklahomans are defined in literature, how we're stereotyped, and some of our famous characters, like Will Rogers."

—Karen Anson

The Red Dirt Book Festival is November 2 and 3 at the Heart of Oklahoma Expo Center in Shawnee. reddirtbookfestival.com.

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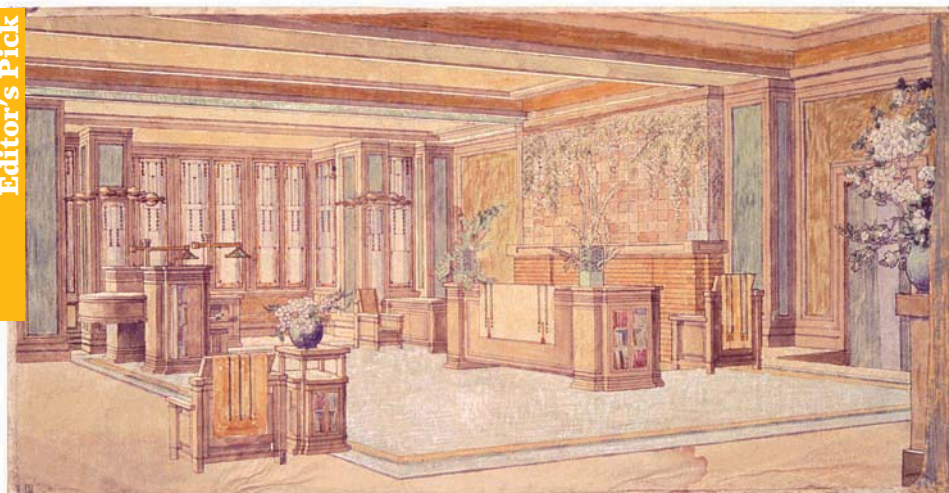
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Editor's Pick



The Wright Stuff

A Tulsa exhibit showcases the hearth and home philosophy of America's most heralded architect.

WHEN PHILBROOK MUSEUM hosts a ten-week exhibition, **Frank Lloyd Wright and the House Beautiful**, beginning November 11, visitors will see interior designs from not only an American legend but a bit of a family member.

Maybe it's appropriate that a collection of famed American architect Frank Lloyd Wright's work makes Tulsa one of its few stops. It's not just the three Wright-designed structures in northeastern Oklahoma that tie the cape-wearing architect here.

"You have a sort of natural link with Wright and Oklahoma, and Tulsa in particular," says Chris Kallenberger, director of collections and public programs at Philbrook.

It was *Tulsa Tribune* publisher Richard Lloyd Jones who gave cousin Wright, struggling at the time, the opportunity to build a home during the Depression era. In a recent Tulsa weekly, David Jones, Richard's grandson, called the 1929 house, known as Westhope and still standing at 3704 South Birmingham in Tulsa, a "magnificent piece of modern architecture and a disaster."

Richard Lloyd Jones loved the house his cousin built, but it was 50 percent over budget and leaked, according to an account in *Time* magazine.

"Well, this is what we get for leaving a work of art out in the rain," Jones' wife was quoted as saying in the article.

While Oklahomans may be familiar with the distinctive exterior look of Wright's designs, the architect thought the inside was just as important, Kallenberger says. What Wright called the "house beautiful" contributed to inhabitants' emotional well being.

"It involved every element in the home," Kallenberger says. "Wright believed a well-designed interior could lead to a happy family."

The exhibition is divided into three parts to demonstrate how Wright planned to implement those happy family ideals. Visitors will see how the architect sought an interior reflective of democratic ideals and how he experimented with exporting them to the average American. —Ryan McNeill

Frank Lloyd Wright and the House Beautiful runs November 11 through January 20, 2008. Philbrook Museum of Art, 2727 South Rockford Road in Tulsa. (918) 749-7941 or philbrook.org.



A hanging lamp designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT FOUNDATION



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Oklahoma was always Lloyd Noble's greatest passion.

The visionary oilman founded The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation in 1945 to assist Oklahoma's farmers and ranchers in land stewardship.

Six decades later the Noble Foundation continues to fulfill this promise, providing agricultural consultation, development, education and research.

Enhancing its agricultural mission, the Noble Foundation has become a global leader in basic, applied and translational plant biology research.

More than 325 employees from 25 countries collaborate daily on cutting-edge research, while continuing Lloyd Noble's legacy of cultivating relationships with area farmers and ranchers.

Together, the men and women of the Noble Foundation are improving global agriculture, unlocking human and animal health breakthroughs and leading Oklahoma's biofuels revolution.

As the next generation unfolds, new fields of discovery await the Noble Foundation, but one constant remains – the passion that propels it.

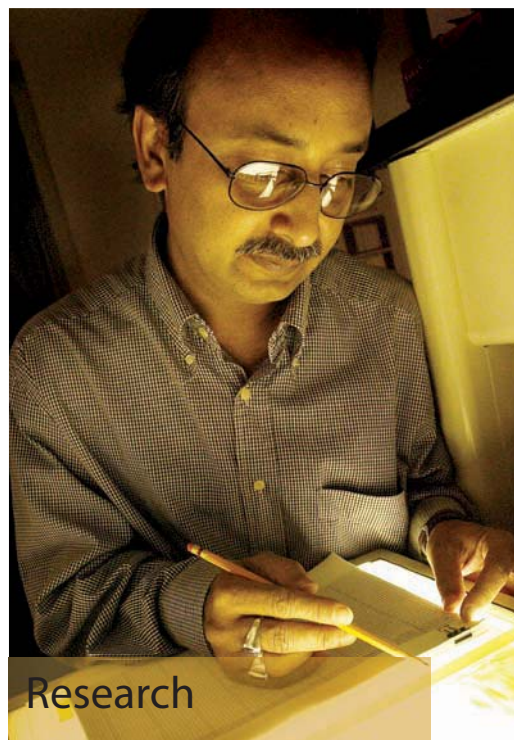
www.noble.org



Education



Land Stewardship



Research

PARTY OF THE CENTURY

1907



By Vallery Brown

IN GUTHRIE AND ACROSS THE STATE, THE PARTY HAS BEGUN. FOLLOW OUR EIGHT-DAY CALENDAR TO BE IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME FROM NOVEMBER 9 TO C-DAY, NOVEMBER 16.



FRIDAY

09

THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS

THE CENTENNIAL WEEK CLOCK STARTS TICKING DOWN TO THE BIG DAY.

NATIONAL FOUR-STRING BANJO HALL OF FAME MUSEUM

Although the jazz age of the 1920s and 1930s is the focus at the **NATIONAL FOUR-STRING BANJO HALL OF FAME MUSEUM**, the tenor banjo sounds that shaped American popular music from minstrel to ragtime to bluegrass also get their due.

Guthrie is home to this one-of-a-kind repository dedicated to the four-string banjo. Along with three hundred banjos on

display, the museum's collection includes printed music, videos, and recordings centered around the four-stringed wonder.

"The banjo was the electric guitar of today," says museum director Johnny Baier. "It has played an incredible role in American popular music."

116 East Oklahoma Avenue in Guthrie. (405) 260-1323 or banjomuseum.org.



5 P.M. GUTHRIE CENTENNIAL EVENT

At 5 p.m., the hands of this clock will begin marking a new era. The **CENTENNIAL CLOCK UNVEILING** will take place at the Apothecary Garden west of the Oklahoma Frontier Drugstore Museum, home to a collection of more than ten thousand items from snake oil to mortar and pestles. An outdoor drugstore of sorts, the recently opened Apothecary Garden is home to medicinal herbs and plants.

Coinciding with the clock unveiling, the **CENTENNIAL CORRIDOR DEDICATION RIBBON CUTTING** will take place outside the museum and garden. The one-mile stretch of historic Oklahoma Avenue from the Scottish Rite Masonic Center to City Hall is set to receive a makeover that includes new lamp posts and landscaping.

214 West Oklahoma Avenue. (405) 282-1895 or drugstoremuseum.org.

OKLAHOMA CENTENNIAL COMMISSION



Double Your Fun

The **DOUBLESTOP FIDDLE SHOP & MUSIC HALL** is the perfect remedy for rock-addled ears. The twelve-year-old store is owned by fiddler Byron Berline, whose shop is a luthier's dream. Banjos, violins, and guitars are bountiful, and the music, of course, is never lacking. From Berline's Grammy-nominated albums to his collaborations with Bill Monroe and Earl Scruggs, bluegrass and country music lovers are sure to find some boot-tapping selections for sale. In the mood for something live? Berline and his band perform occasional Fridays and every other Saturday night in the adjacent Music Hall.

DoubleStop Fiddle Shop and Music Hall, 121 East Oklahoma Avenue. (405) 282-6646 or doublestop.com.

GUTHRIE SANTA FE DEPOT

The red brick Santa Fe Depot was built in 1902, and even though passenger service stopped around 1979, sixty freight trains a day still rattle the depot walls. The **INTERNATIONAL TRAIN AND AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM** inside the depot boasts model train sets from around the world. Cafe Brian's, also inside, specializes in sandwiches and pizza. 409 West Oklahoma Avenue. (405) 260-0707 or theoldsantafedepotofguthrie.com.



SATURDAY

10

BOWLING FOR CENTENNIAL

SATURDAY NIGHT'S ALL RIGHT IN GUTHRIE.

12 P.M. GUTHRIE CENTENNIAL EVENT

SARAH BOLING



Fresh. Hip. Contemporary. Modern artwork will line the storied walls and streets of downtown Guthrie at the **GUTHRIE ART WALK**. Now in its tenth year, the Art Walk focuses on fine arts created in Oklahoma.

Fifteen Oklahoma artists and artisans are paired up with downtown shops and businesses, with everything from furniture to photography sold at the event.

"Everybody's casual," says Guthrie Art Walk president Sarah Boling. "Along with Guthrie's charm, it really creates a nice atmosphere."

Participating businesses of-

fer refreshments for passersby, and street musicians keep the walk between venues upbeat and entertaining.

Erin Webb, who owns Freedom of Espresso Coffeehouse at 109 South Division, moved to Guthrie in 1999 and has high hopes the Art Walk will broaden horizons.

"I hope this changes people's views of Oklahoma artists," says Webb. "They have many faces."

Guthrie Art Walk, noon to 9 p.m. Participating artists will be on hand to talk about their work beginning at 5 p.m. (405) 293-4546 or myspace.com/guthrieartwalk.



89-ER BOWL

For strikes and spares in Guthrie, downtown's **89-ER BOWL** is the destination. The original venue opened in 1978, and Mark and Susan Pearson have owned the popular spot since 2000. Saturday nights offer bright possibilities when the black lights turn on and the music turns up during Glow Bowl. *221 North Second. (405) 260-2695.*

MARK PEARSON



11 A.M.

Destination: Blackwell

CELEBRATE OKLAHOMA'S CENTENNIAL IN AMERICA'S HOMETOWN in Blackwell is a small-town bash with big plans. The Centennial and Veteran's Day parade kicks off at 11 a.m. with bands revving up the crowd. Afterwards, the smell of a home-cooked meal big enough for an entire town will lure parade-goers to VFW Hall for the afternoon bean feed. In the mood for sweets? Try a piece of the hundred-foot-long birthday cake. *(580) 363-4195 or blackwellchamber.org.*



SUNDAY

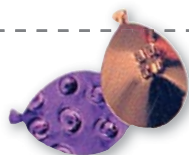
11

CULTURE FIX

A DOSE OF FINE ART CAPS OFF THE PRECENTENNIAL WEEKEND.

POLLARD THEATRE

Through November 17, the **POLLARD THEATRE** presents *Big River*, based on *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. With a score by Erick native Roger Miller, the musical has an Okie feel. Says artistic director W. Jerome Stevenson, "*Big River* teaches important lessons whether you're a thirteen-year-old boy or a hundred-year-old state." 120 West Harrison. (405) 282-2800 or thepollard.org.



OWENS ARTS PLACE MUSEUM

An old Guthrie church now boasts Logan County's first fine arts museum. **OWENS ARTS PLACE MUSEUM** was founded in 2005 by longtime Guthrie resident and retired UCO art history professor Wallace Owens. The museum—still building its permanent collection—frequently exhibits paintings and sculptures. The Centennial collection currently on display, Centennial Exhibit and Echoes From China, will run through December 13. 1202 East Harrison. (405) 260-0204 or www.owensmuseum.com.

MONDAY

12

BIG MONDAY

CENTENNIAL WEEK STARTS RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

It has taken a corps of leaders and fifteen subcommittees to pull off the Centennial events in Guthrie. Heading the team is **GUTHRIE CENTENNIAL** director George Watts, city manager Melody Kellogg, and chamber of commerce president Kathy Montgomery. "Wear walking shoes and come ready to have fun," Watts says.



Buy Buy Guthrie

KATHY MONTGOMERY KNOWS GUTHRIE. SHE'S SPENT NEARLY THIRTY YEARS HERE, THE PAST FOUR AS PRESIDENT OF THE GUTHRIE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. SHE SAYS **SHOPPING'S** THE THING TO DO IN THIS TOWN. SHE RECOMMENDS THESE MUST-SHOPS.

AUNT GERTRUDE'S HOUSE 112 East Oklahoma
(405) 260-2345 or auntgertrudeshouse.com.

BRIGHTSIDE TRADING 210 West Harrison
(405) 260-1228 or brightsidetrading.com.

ROSA BELLA 117 West Harrison
(405) 282-9776

NEAR AND FAR 115 West Harrison
(405) 282-0907

1 P.M.

Destination: Norman

Norman Public Library's third annual **NATIVE AMERICAN FESTIVAL** honors native people and veterans. Don't miss the Oklahoma Fancy Dancers, author Cynthia Leitch Smith, and enough Native American vendors, children's crafts, and Indian tacos for everyone. 1 to 6 p.m. at the Norman Public Library. (405) 701-2600.



TUESDAY 13

A TUESDAY IN NOVEMBER

IT'S PEOPLE AND PLACES THAT MAKE THE CENTENNIAL SHINE.

MELODY KELLOGG

Another Guthrie mover who knows her stuff is city manager **MELODY KELLOGG**. She's held the position for nearly a year and called Guthrie home for eighteen.

Q: What are your duties as city manager?

A: Most of my time is spent communicating with department heads, the city council, and Guthrie residents. To stay focused, I start each day with a prayer for guidance to do the right things for the right reasons.

Q: What role have you played in Centennial events planning?

A: Mostly coordination and communication between Guthrie Centennial executive director George Watts and the city council. The truth is that George, the Centennial volunteers, and

other agency and city staff members have done all the real work.

Q: What's your favorite Guthrie destination?

A: I can't possibly pick a favorite! I love the library, the restaurants, the retail businesses, even my pharmacist.

Q: What's your Guthrie guilty pleasure?

A: Getting a massage and indulging in fine chocolate and café mocha at one of our downtown espresso bars.

Q: What Centennial events are you looking forward to?

A: The Native American Sunset Ceremony. From the descriptions I've heard, this will truly be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. And of course the parade. I love marching bands. I can't wait to hear so many wonderful sounds one after another.

OKLAHOMA TERRITORIAL MUSEUM

At the **OKLAHOMA TERRITORIAL MUSEUM**, "People come as close as they can to actually stepping back into the past," says Valerie Haynes, the museum's director. The Road to Statehood exhibit features symbols and artifacts from the era, including the forty-six-star United States flag that flew at Independence Hall in Philadelphia in 1908 and the silk ball gown worn by Lillian Haskell at her husband's inaugural ball in 1907. The State Seal will be on display at the museum November 12 through 18. 406 East Oklahoma Avenue. (405) 282-1889 or oklahomatorritorialmuseum.org.



OKLAHOMA TERRITORIAL MUSEUM

7:30 P.M.

Destination: Tulsa

Johnny Cash was a legend in life, and now, four years after his death, his music lives on at a fevered pitch. Tulsa Performing Arts Center's production of **RING OF FIRE** showcases nearly forty of Cash's songs, including "I Walk the Line" and "A Boy Named Sue." 110 East Second Street. (918) 596-7122 or tulsapac.com.



JOAN MARCUS

WEDNESDAY

14

HALFWAY THERE

THINGS DON'T SLOW DOWN IN GUTHRIE ON WEDNESDAY.



OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

GUTHRIE CENTENNIAL EVENT

"Youth tend to honor what they understand," says AJ Griffin, executive director of Logan County Youth & Family Services and youth participation chair for the Guthrie Centennial Committee. "We want them to understand through participation."

And with one hundred students invited for **100 LEADERS FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS**, learning won't be in short supply. Activities kick off at 8:30 a.m. at the Guthrie Scottish Rite Masonic Center, where youth and community leaders including Guthrie mayor Chuck Burtcher and others will speak on leadership. Presentations on past state leaders like Kate Barnard—the first woman elected to public office in the country—will also give youngsters an understanding of leadership through service.

Following the reception and speeches, kids will head to the Oklahoma Sports Museum to tour the facilities and interact with Oklahoma sports greats. "We can't all be athletes," says museum director Richard Hendricks, "but we can be successful." guthriecentennial.com.

OKLAHOMA SPORTS MUSEUM

The **OKLAHOMA SPORTS MUSEUM** is catching. From the larger-than-life bronze statue of native Oklahoman and baseball great Warren Spahn to the Oklahoma American Indian Athletes and Hall of Fame Exhibit, the museum is packed with enough history and memorabilia to keep sports fans interested for hours. Even Oklahoma cowboys have their bases covered. A painting by Charles Banks Wilson of rodeo great Jim Shou-

lders guards a room full of saddles, spurs, and pigskin.

Says museum director Richard Hendricks, "The game of life is the game everyone is playing."

315 West Oklahoma Avenue. (405) 260-1342 or oklahomasportsmuseum.com.



Guthrie Meal Deals

THERE WEREN'T ANY DRIVE-THROUGH WINDOWS IN 1907, AND A HUNDRED YEARS LATER, THINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED MUCH IN DOWNTOWN GUTHRIE. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THERE AREN'T PLENTY OF **RESTAURANTS** IN THE AREA. CHECK OUT THESE LOCAL HOT SPOTS AND DIG IN.

BLUE BELL SALOON & RESTAURANT Since 1889, Blue Bell Saloon & Restaurant has been slingin' drinks and eats, and it's not hard to imagine turn-of-the-century politicians and cowboys coming here for sustenance. 224 West Harrison, (405) 282-8111.

STABLES CAFÉ They've cleared the horses out of the historic Tallman Livery Stable and replaced them with barbecue and burgers. 223 North Division, (405) 282-0893 or stablescafe.biz.

THE VICTORIAN TEA ROOM If cute, quaint, and quiet sounds like your cup of tea, then the Victorian Tea Room is a must-stop. 103 South Second, (405) 282-4099 or thevictoriantearoomguthrie.com.

GRANNY HAD ONE This Guthrie darling has been serving up fresh home-cooked favorites since 1990. Lunch and dinner menus offer a host of hardy fare, and the chicken-fried chicken and fried green tomatoes never miss the cut. 113 West Harrison, (405) 282-4438 or grannyhadone.biz.



THURSDAY 15

WE GET AROUND

TRAINS AND TROLLEYS OR BIKES AND BOOTS, IT'S EASY TO MAKE YOUR WAY TO EVERY ONE OF GUTHRIE'S CENTENNIAL EVENTS.

11 A.M. CENTENNIAL EXPRESS

The **CENTENNIAL EXPRESS**—a special-occasion train provided for the day's festivities—will arrive at Guthrie's Santa Fe Depot from Oklahoma City to unload more than four hundred state officials and guests. Following lunch, legislators will head to First Legislative Hall in the Guthrie Scottish Rite Masonic Center and convene a special session, where issues of the day—the first Statehood Day, that is—will be reenacted by high school students who participated in the Constitutional Exemplifications in October. Oklahoma secretary of state Susan Savage will present the Oklahoma State Seal to the legislature, and mayors Mick Cornett of Oklahoma City and Chuck Burtcher of Guthrie will battle it out in a tug of war over the rightful home of the state seal. guthriecentennial.com.

4 P.M. GUTHRIE CENTENNIAL EVENT

A few hours before sunset, a **NATIVE AMERICAN SUNSET CEREMONY** commences on the west lawn of the Scottish Rite Masonic Center to pay homage to the past while preparing for the road ahead. "This is a way for native people to look to the future with hope and triumph," says Shoshana Wasserman of the American Indian Cultural Center & Museum. The ceremony's intention is to instill hope and a positive outlook on the future. "As the sun sets," says Wasserman, "we can close a chapter in history and look to the next one hundred years." aiccm.org.



KIMBERLY RODRIGUEZ

3 P.M.

Destination: Tulsa

While the state looks to the next hundred years, faces at the Tulsa Air & Space Museum will be looking up and back. **NATIVE AMERICAN SKIES**—a Centennial project running through November 30—will take planetarium-goers to the constellations and patterns Native Americans observed in what is now Oklahoma. (918) 834-9900 or tulsaairandspacemuseum.com.

STOCKTREK IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES



GUTHRIE "TRANSPORTATION"

BOOTS

Guthrie boot maker **LISA SORRELL** has been stitching and selling custom-made cowboy boots in Guthrie since 1995. "I like traditional themes," says Sorrell, "but I'm not afraid to do them in new and colorful ways." (405) 282-5464 or customboots.net.

BIKES

What better way to see Guthrie's sites than by bike? Kent Denham of **GUTHRIE BICYCLES** has them for sale, for rent, and for gawking over. His business has been a downtown staple for the past twenty-three years. (405) 282-8524 or guthriebicycleok.com.

CARRIAGES

Relax to the steady gait of the horses while enjoying Guthrie's old-fashioned sensibilities. **LOVE IS CARRIAGES** provides the horse, the driver, and the seat, ticket to the past included. Rates start at \$35 for two. (405) 833-4557 or loveiscarriages.com.

TROLLEYS

Adding to Guthrie's charm are green **TROLLEYS** that offer free transportation in downtown Guthrie November 15 and 16. The trolleys also will be shuffling visitors between sites before and after Friday's big parade. (405) 282-6000.



ROBERT BOZARTH

FRIDAY

16

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, OKLAHOMA!

WE OFFER A SIX-PACK OF HAPPENINGS IN HONOR OF THE CENTENARIAN OF THE MOMENT.

WE CAN'T GO back in time, but **REENACTMENTS OF 1907 STATEHOOD DAY EVENTS** will bring spectators as close as it gets. With help from the Oklahoma History Center and Guthrie Museum Complex, the historical happenings of Oklahoma's first day of statehood will be recreated as accurately as possible. Bob Blackburn, executive director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, will narrate the reenactments, while civic leaders, elected officials, and community members will take on the roles of characters from 1907. JumboTrons will strategically be placed downtown to ensure all in attendance catch a glimpse. Those at home can catch the action on oklatravelnet.com. (405) 282-1947 or guthriecentennial.com.

9:16 A.M.

Pistol fire announces statehood at the **STATE CAPITAL PUBLISHING MUSEUM**.



10 A.M.

Miss Indian Territory and Mr. Oklahoma Territory marry outside the **HISTORIC CARNEGIE LIBRARY**, and elected officials including Governor Haskell are sworn into office.

11:30 A.M. STATEHOOD DAY PARADE

"We are keeping it as authentic as we can," says **STATEHOOD PARADE** committee chairman Dennis Ochs. "We've got tractors and horses to pull all the floats, not brand-new pickups." More than 4,000 participants—including twenty-five floats and twenty bands—will start the march at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, heading west on Oklahoma Avenue before proceeding to Second Street, south to Harrison Avenue, east to Division, and south to Mineral Wells Park. The two-hour-long parade includes five hundred Native Americans and a color guard that will carry the thirty-nine flags of Oklahoma's Indian nations.

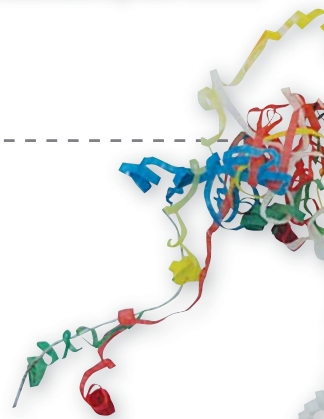
MIKE WIMMER



President Teddy Roosevelt Signing Statehood Proclamation by Mike Wimmer

1 P.M. FREE LUNCH

Like on Statehood Day in 1907, the postparade rewards come in the form of lunch. At Mineral Wells Park, the parade's end point, hundreds of volunteers will dish out the historically accurate and free **BARBECUE LUNCH**. With the possibility of hundreds of thousands in attendance, quantities, naturally, are limited. The Cottonwood Cloggers, among others, will entertain picnickers, and for the slowpokes, food will also be sold at the park.



9:30 A.M. AFRICAN AMERICAN STATEHOOD CELEBRATION

It wasn't all champagne on November 16. Some residents of Oklahoma and Indian territories were unsettled by the thought of statehood. "The Constitutional Convention set the tone for inserting segregation into the state's laws," says Bruce Fisher, administrative programs officer for the Oklahoma Historical Society. The **AFRICAN AMERICAN STATEHOOD CELEBRATION** starts in Guthrie at E.P. McCabe Theatre at 9:30 a.m. with performances of the play *New Chance Cities* at 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. Fisher says, "The play reveals the anxiety of the time but ends in a celebration." (405) 522-5049.

7 P.M.

Destination: Oklahoma City

With the last band winding down in Guthrie around 5:30 p.m., the Centennial fervor is far from over. A quick jump away is Oklahoma City's Ford Center, where the **CENTENNIAL SPECTACULAR** starts at 7 p.m. Bands like the All-American Rejects and the Flaming Lips will keep things rockin'. oklahomacentennial.com.



J. MICHELLE MARTIN-COYNE



SATURDAY

17

CENTENNIAL FULL CIRCLE

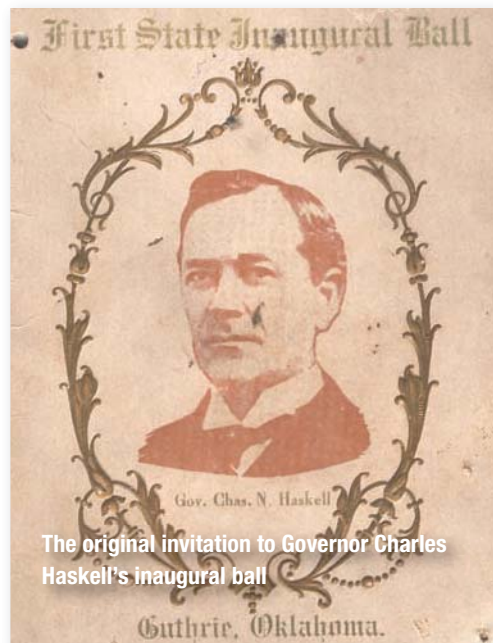
IT ENDS WHERE IT ALL BEGAN ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, IN GUTHRIE.

7 P.M. INAUGURAL BALL

A reenactment of Charles Haskell's **INAUGURAL BALL** will cap off the week's events in turn-of-the-century style. "People should feel like they actually are a part of the history that went on that evening," says Kathy Montgomery, Guthrie Chamber of Commerce president.

Organizers have worked hard to ensure that virtually everything is historically accurate. Attendees, in period attire or black tie, will be announced by a saber guard as they enter the Legislative Hall of the Scottish Rite Masonic Center. The Al Good Orchestra will have guests dancing the night away.

Governor Brad Henry and Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins will attend, and Charles Haskell's great-granddaughter, Maggie Haskell Potter, will wear a recreation of the gown worn by Mrs. Haskell at the ball in 1907. Tickets, \$100. (405) 282-1947 or guthrieok.com.



University of Central Oklahoma

Learning New Notes For More Than A Century



Central State Normal School Band, 1910
Photo courtesy of UCO Archives & Special Collections

Students at the University of Central Oklahoma are enjoying a learning tradition that dates back to 1890 and Central's first 23 students.

Over the last century, UCO has grown to almost 16,000 students, offering degrees never imagined 100 years ago.

The UCO Jazz Lab opened in 2002, providing students and the community a live music venue that has been consistently voted one of the area's best by readers of several publications. More importantly, the UCO Jazz Lab is a state-of-the-art learning center, providing students both a performance venue as well as a digital recording studio. It's just one of many exciting ways UCO has evolved over the last century.



UCO Jazz Lab, 2007



UCO, LEADING THE WAY...

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Okies

"Poets are the people who are really the most enlightened among us.... What better thing could you be than a poet?" —N. Scott Momaday

Expert Advice

Great Scott

N. Scott Momaday is well versed in verse.

POETS DON'T COME any more highly regarded than N. Scott Momaday. As a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and with a Pulitzer Prize and Guggenheim fellowship to his credit, Momaday, Oklahoma's Centennial poet laureate, is uniquely qualified on the subject of how to write a great poem:

- "A poem is a statement concerning the human condition composed in verse. Always keep this definition in mind.
- *Verse* is the key word. It means measure. The lines of a poem are measured in feet, in syllables, or in some other value. You should have a book of literary terms to learn what a foot, stanza, iamb, pentameter, etc., is and how those terms are used.
- Read aloud again and again poems that you admire. Hear them, even memorize

them. The sound of a poem is as important as the meaning.

- Choose a subject that you know well or one that you are willing to research thoroughly.
- Write as precisely as you can. Every word must count. There must be no extraneous matter in the poem.
- When you have written a poem, live with it for a time, then go back to it. Most poems require revision, polishing.
- Live with language. Fall in love with words. They are magical. Nothing is more powerful. Poetry is the best way in which to discover and reveal their magic.
- Writing a poem calls for the best expression that is in you. It is an act that challenges your whole mind and heart. Be equal to the challenge. The rewards are very great."

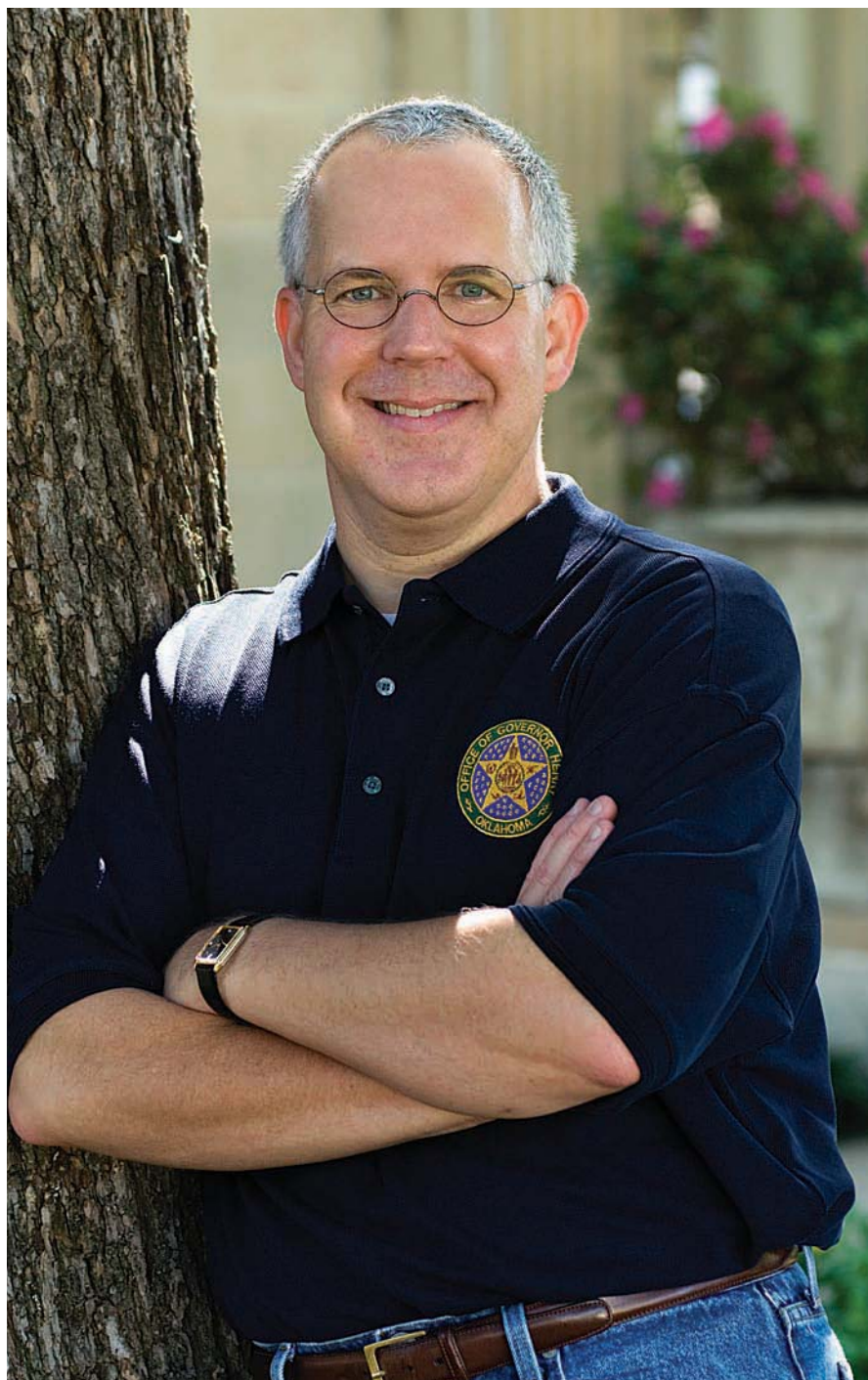
POET IN MOTION

During his poet laureate term, which continues until January 1, 2009, N. Scott Momaday will be on the move, taking his verse on the road to all corners of the state. The Lawton native, a member of the Kiowa tribe, and his wife Barbara have relocated from Santa Fe, New Mexico, to a downtown Oklahoma City apartment.

Oh, Henry!

Oklahoma's top elected official is pretty easy to relate to.

In the election of November 2002, dark-horse Democratic candidate Brad Henry won the governor's race. Now in his second term, after capturing 66 percent of the vote in his 2006 reelection bid, the third-generation Oklahoman has earned a reputation as a consensus-builder able to work on both sides of the aisle. Henry and his wife Kim live with their three daughters, Leah, Laynie, and Baylee, in the Governor's Mansion while maintaining strong ties to their hometown of Shawnee.



JOHN JERNIGAN

What's the last book you read? I recently finished *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. It's a wonderful novel that provides fascinating insight into the experience of living in Afghanistan during the rise of the Taliban. I'm currently reading Barbara Kingsolver's *The Poisonwood Bible*, which is also terrific.

What's the last television show you watched? I have a wife and three very tough-minded girls. I don't think I can remember the last time I watched a TV show of my own choosing.

What's in your iPod? I have a pretty wide-ranging taste in music, and that's reflected on my iPod. It varies from Sarah McLachlan to Toby Keith, Eric Clapton to Keb' Mo'.

'I don't think there is any better job than being governor of Oklahoma.'

—Brad Henry

What historic figure inspires you? Lincoln, Churchill, Jefferson, Martin Luther King—there are far too many to limit it. As far as the most inspiring Oklahomans in history, I believe one of the most courageous was Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher. The first African American to break the color barrier at OU's College of Law, she helped bring about the fall of desegregation in the United States' institutions of higher education.

What do you do for fun? I love fishing, hunting, golf, watching sports, going to movies, reading, and spending time with my family and friends. I also find my work to be a lot of fun. I have said it many times, but it is absolutely true: I don't think there is any better job than being governor of Oklahoma.

Describe yourself in ten words or fewer. I don't think I could do it in less than eleven.

What's your favorite computer or board game? I enjoy playing spider solitaire on the computer.

What worries you? I think I have the same worries as most parents, particularly when it comes to my children. My wife Kim and I are blessed with three wonderful girls, but all parents share the same concerns about their kids' health and happiness.

Who makes you laugh? Kim can always make me laugh.

What irritates you? Questionnaires.

What posters did you have hanging in your room when you were a teenager? I've always been a big OU Sooners fan and certainly was when I was a teenager. I had a lot of OU football memorabilia and a poster of Cheryl Tiegs.

What was your favorite subject in school? I enjoyed math a lot, but my favorite subject by far was English. I really loved creative writing and the mechanics of what makes good writing, lessons that have served me well over the years. My favorite elective class was FFA.

What are your best qualities? I try to treat everyone fairly, regardless of who they are, and I believe I can work with and get along with anyone.

What's your favorite room in the Governor's Mansion? My family spends most of their time in the kitchen and the second-floor family room, so those are my favorite spots.

What's your favorite sport? I really love most sports, though I am not able to follow them these days quite as much as I would like. My favorite sport to watch is college football, but you can't beat college basketball when March Madness arrives.

What's your favorite cereal? Life. If it was good enough for Mikey, it's good enough for me.

Who's your favorite actor? There are too many to name, but Tom Hanks, Jack Nicholson, Ben Stiller, and Will Ferrell all come to mind.

Who's your favorite actress? I think Meryl Streep, Hilary Swank, and Natalie Portman are all great actresses.

Who's your favorite comedian? Jerry Seinfeld.

How much money is in your wallet? I don't carry a wallet, but I have seventeen dollars in my pocket.

What's the coolest thing on your desk? My veto pen. The governor can't introduce legislation or amend bills, but he does get the final say on what passes, and that's where the veto pen comes in handy.

What's your favorite kind of ice cream? Chocolate chip.

What's your favorite clothing brand or label? I'm not too concerned about brands or labels. I just wear comfortable clothes.

What kind of cologne do you wear? Safari by Ralph Lauren. Kim buys it for me.

What the best movie you've seen in the last year? *Freedom Writers*. It's a great story about the impact a teacher can have on young lives. It's a movie that's full of hope and teaches audiences that anything really is possible if you're willing to work hard.

What's your most prized possession? My wedding ring, because it's a reminder of the most important thing in my life—my family.

Not counting family members, who's your favorite Oklahoma politician of all time? I can't pick just one, but two who come immediately to mind are Robert S. Kerr and Henry Bellmon. Both men were extraordinary leaders with a vision for Oklahoma and a willingness to pursue that vision, even if it meant ruffling feathers within their own political party.

What human quality do you most admire? The courage to do what is right. I admire those who are willing to follow the right course, regardless of the consequences.

What quality do you most appreciate in a friend? Loyalty.

What quality do you most respect in an enemy? Honesty. I can, and do, disagree with political opponents and even friends on policy issues, but as long as that opponent can approach the issue with honesty, there is room to work together and find common ground.



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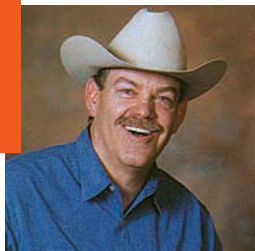
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Admission charge covers entry for all three days. There are thousands of reasons to shop, and most visitors plan to spend all day at the exhibits. Food service is available and parking is free.

Centennial Favorites

Oklahomans share their pet projects.



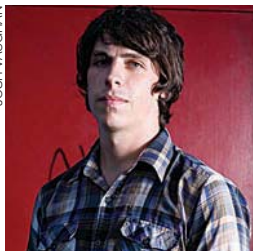
ANDREW SOUTHAM

B. Byron Price, director of OU Press: "My favorite Centennial project is the American Indian Cultural Center & Museum. Oklahoma has long needed a place where its native peoples could tell their own stories and share their rich and vibrant history and culture with the world."



JOSH VAUGHAN

Kristin Chenoweth, actress: "My favorite Centennial event was singing at the Rose Parade. I thought Charles Jones, the producer, did an amazing job, and the OCU dancers and band represented Oklahoma beautifully. I've never been more proud to be a girl from the forty-sixth state."



Jeremie Infelise, BMX rider: "I would have to say my favorite Centennial project is the Beacon of Hope. With what I do, advances in medical science make it easier to heal and get back on your bike after an injury."

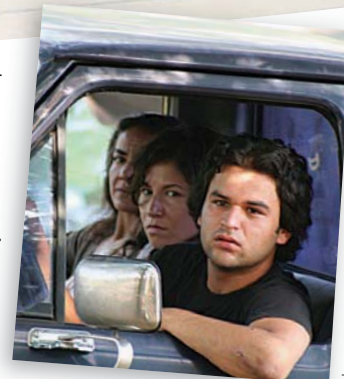


David B. Hooten, musician: "All seven hundred-plus of them. They show our pride in our state and the richness and wonderful diversity of the people. I travel all over the world playing concerts, and I'm always proud to say I'm from Oklahoma."

Get This!

Sterling Sterling

Tulsa filmmaker Sterling Harjo has been racking up critical acclaim for his newest movie, *Four Sheets to the Wind*, at film festivals across the country. Now catch him and producer Chad Burris, also of Tulsa, at the Oklahoma premiere on November 1 at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art. 7:30 p.m. Screenings, November 1 through 4. Tickets, \$5 to \$8. okcmoa.com.



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"Her poems are frightening but necessary." —Joy Harjo on ???

Name This Okie Quiz

Prolific Poetess

This lyrical woman with a short name is long on talent.

Mixing Choctaw-Chickasaw, Southern Cheyenne, Comanche, African American, Japanese, Dutch, and Irish cultures in one body, this OSU creative writing professor pens dramatic monologues spoken by characters of many races. Her often dark and violent work has received critical acclaim for more than three decades. *Sin* garnered an American Book Award, and *Vice* won the National Book Award for Poetry in 1999. Her latest collection, *Dread*, was published in 2003.

Born Florence Anthony, she dropped her stepfather's name and now is known by a word that means love in Japanese, reflecting a tie to her biological father, whose identity was unknown to her for many years. Do you know this Oklahoman who uses many names and speaks with many voices? Check our website or next month's issue for the answer. Last issue's Name This Okie was Thomas Martinez. —CRISTI LAQUER

Who
is she?

CHARLEY MTP/SIRAIT

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"I'm not aware of another social service that has a history as rich as ours or has played as important and critical a role in our state as Sunbeam." —Ray Bitsche

Ray of Light

For the past century, Sunbeam Family Services has assisted those in need.

LESSONS IN compassion are often humbling. In 2005, Ohio native Bennie Garrison learned an enduring lesson on the kindness of strangers. While traveling through Oklahoma for a contracting job, Garrison, then fifty-eight, had a stroke that left him barely able to walk. In between jobs, in unfamiliar territory, and homeless, Garrison needed a helping hand. It came from **Sunbeam Family Services**.

In November 1907, fourteen women formed the Sunbeam Home Association as a private, nonsectarian agency to care for disadvantaged Oklahoma City youths.

At the dawn of its one hundredth year, Sunbeam Family Services, as it is now known, is evolving with the times and has undergone a makeover. Although the company's client base has broadened over the years, executive director Ray Bitsche sees room for improvement.

"Everyone referred to Sunbeam in the past tense," says Bitsche. "Our name was recognized, but not our services."

To address this issue, a new logo was crafted in spring 2007 with the company name set below a quarter sun. The company also adopted a tag line: "Help for all ages at all stages of life."



Students and staff pose for a photo in front of the original orphanage at Sunbeam Home in 1947.

As Sunbeam embarks on its second century addressing the needs of Oklahomans, stories like Bennie Garrison's will continue to inspire. No longer a client, Garrison opted to stay in Oklahoma, thanks in part to the help he received from Sunbeam, and now volunteers as a senior companion for the organization.

"So many people helped me, and I have a lot of gratitude," says Garrison. "God knocked me down so that I'd help other people. I'm richer now than I ever was."

—Vallery Brown

Sunbeam Family Services is located at 616 Northwest Twenty-first Street in Oklahoma City. (405) 528-7721 or sunbeamfamilyservices.org.

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BY ROBERT HENRY

Capitol Artist

CHARLES BANKS WILSON, WHOSE GILCREASE MUSEUM **RETROSPECTIVE** IS ONGOING THROUGH THE END OF THE **CENTENNIAL** YEAR, MAY BE OKLAHOMA'S MOST IMPORTANT **CHRONICLER** OF PEOPLE AND PASSAGES. AT THE OKLAHOMA STATE CAPITOL, HE IS SURELY THE ROTUNDA'S **STAR** PERFORMER.

IT WAS AN epic occasion: Oklahoma's greatest painter at the home of Oklahoma's greatest historian. In 1985, the first meeting between artist Charles Banks Wilson and scholar Angie Debo at her small house in Marshall, Oklahoma, was to firm up plans for her portrait to one day hang in the halls of our State Capitol. Despite popular knowledge that the frontier would never have been settled had it not been for the archetypal Pioneer Woman, no paintings of women, pioneer or otherwise, adorned the halls of our seat of government.

Native Americans are a frequent subject of Charles Banks Wilson's work. He painted *Man of Honor* in 1999.



JOHN JERNIGAN

Artistically, Wilson owned the state's power pantheon, the capitol's rotunda. His portraits of four great Oklahomans, placed in each quadrant, staked out the perimeter of his conquest: Will Rogers, America's greatest actor, pundit, and humorist; Sequoyah, the Cherokee Cadmus for whom the state, or at least half of it, was almost named; Robert S. Kerr, a man whose ambition and vision for Oklahoma was so vast that it required the entire country to finance it; and Jim Thorpe, the Sac and Fox Indian many considered the athlete of the century.

After an outpouring of adulation for these portraits, Wilson was often the only person considered for future murals. The four massive convex pieces depicting the history of Oklahoma followed in 1976, flanking the initially ersatz dome and cementing Wilson's claim to the Oklahoma State Capitol.

Even the great American regionalist painter Thomas Hart Benton, a friend and colleague of the younger Wilson, once loftily referred to his friend as America's greatest artist-historian.

Wilson could also accurately be called a regionalist, but his own style evokes an older era, a realistic but more heroic, almost neoclassical, style. He concentrated Oklahoma's agrarian, populist, and prairie past on canvases so artfully bent as to seem like the frescoes painted by Michelangelo—and with analogous ennobling and inspiring effect.

At the capitol, Wilson followed our early history on the four large convex murals by depicting four scenes. First, the wise communalism and peaceful idyllic farming of the first Native Americans appears but is accompanied by images showing the gathering greed of the Spanish conquistadors convinced of their own salvation as they sometimes savaged the native inhabitants. Then came the unbridled passion of missionaries, some building God's kingdom on earth and others with mixed motives; the iron and steel of rapacious railroads; and finally, the mostly soon-to-be-shattered dreams of land runners



Cattle Drive



Wilson unveiled this State Capitol portrait of Angie Debo in 1985.



The Cherokee Weavers



Fishing Joe's Creek

who gathered, as the mural reads, to "go forth and possess the promised land" of 160 undeveloped acres.

The Oklahoma of Wilson's capitol murals was a state of raw beauty, rough frontier, and boundless potential. His was a state of concentrated, double-

dose history crying out for study and understanding.

One Wilson painting for the great rotunda was smaller in scale but no less important. Carl Albert, the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives during the Watergate crisis, occupied a canvas half the size of that of his senate colleague Kerr and was perhaps appropriate for the "Little Giant from Little Dixie," known for his diminutive stature.

But the Albert painting has a depth and maturity that makes it stand with the

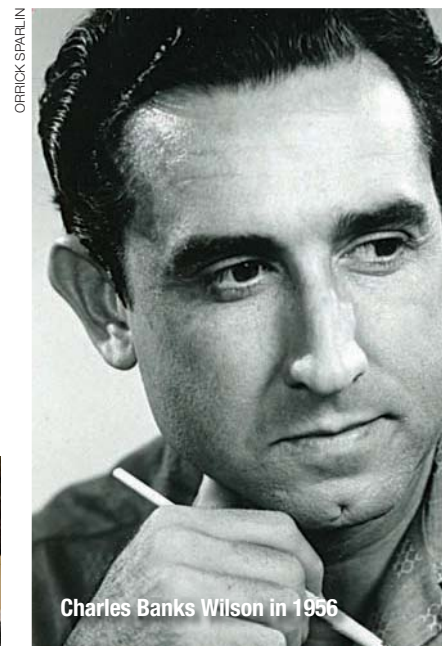
'Artistically, Wilson owned the state's power pantheon, the capitol's rotunda.'



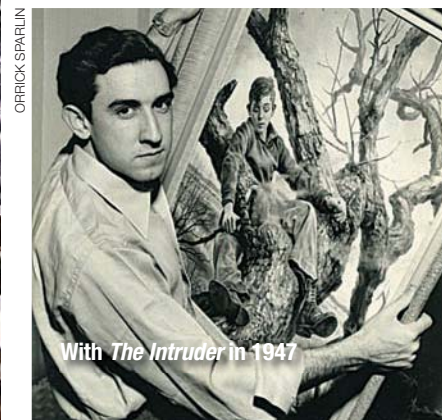
The artist with his friend Joe Benny Mason in 1978



At the drawing board in 1976



Charles Banks Wilson in 1956



With *The Intruder* in 1947



Wilson at his home studio in Fayetteville, Arkansas, in September 2007

stature of its subject. With a muted image of children—Albert's own schoolmates—in his tiny hometown of Bugtussle in the background, the painting powerfully portrays Albert's version of the American dream. Even a coal miner's kid could be "a heartbeat away from the presidency," as Albert's brief period as second in command was referenced.

BUT THE ALBERT portrait needed a partner, and Penny Williams and I, both state representatives at the time, managed to convince the legislature it should be Angie Debo. Now all we had to do was convince the painter, and in our view, there was only one artist to pick from.

The prospect of painting the first woman's portrait did intrigue Wilson. Even though he wasn't looking for work—my initial call

had already interrupted a painting—he agreed to consider the project.

Wilson believed the portrait should be Kate Barnard, Oklahoma's first woman to hold political office—amazingly, at a time when women could not vote for her. Williams and I offered historian Angie Debo, whose courageous book *And Still the Waters Run* recounted the theft of Native American land in Indian Territory, as an alternate subject.

After meeting Debo, Wilson was

hooked. The portrait Wilson created speaks for itself, showing the drive and vision of the person still universally recognized as our greatest historian. Most of the pantheon having been filled, he went on to other works.

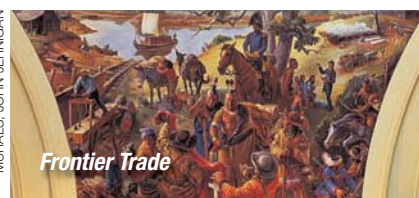
He had first made his mark as a student at the Art Institute of Chicago in the late 1930s. His lithographs from that period forward became the basis of his artistic reputation, and his later pencil sketches, especially the Pureblood Indians series

'Wilson remains the master of Oklahoma's favorite son, with paintings of Rogers in the State Capitol and the Will Rogers Memorial Museums.'



Charles Banks Wilson's painting of Robert S. Kerr is one of his four life-sized portraits of influential Oklahomans that hang in the State Capitol Rotunda.

MURALS, JOHN JERNIGAN



Frontier Trade



Discovery and Exploration



Indian Immigration



Non-Indian Settlement

Artist for the Masses

CHARLES BANKS WILSON'S STATE CAPITOL PAINTINGS

Charles Banks Wilson will always be an Okie. "I love Oklahoma," he says. "A big problem for artists is what inspires you. I had the mining fields, the farmers, the Indian tribes. It was all I needed."

Born in Springdale, Arkansas, in 1918, Wilson and his family moved back to his father's hometown of Miami when Wilson was less than a year old. After studying art and working as an illustrator in Chicago and New York, the artist returned to Oklahoma in the 1940s. In 1948, he established the art department at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami and served as its chair.

His best-known works are in the **OKLAHOMA STATE CAPITOL**, large paintings of Sequoyah, Will Rogers, Robert S. Kerr, and Jim Thorpe. In the late 1960s, he began his work on the rotunda's famous historic murals, shown above.

"Oklahoma supplied me with a career, and the peak of it happened when the state commissioned me to do the murals," he says.

Its top official, for one, is thankful for that. "Charles Banks Wilson's works have celebrated the state's culture and heritage, given form to our history, and enriched the artistic landscape of Oklahoma," says Governor Brad Henry.

Not even a move to Fayetteville, Arkansas, seven years ago has kept Wilson from Oklahoma. He makes frequent trips back to his Miami hometown.

—VALLERY BROWN



Rabbit Tracks

JOHN JERNIGAN

Making Good

GILCREASE HOSTS A MAJOR CHARLES BANKS WILSON RETROSPECTIVE.

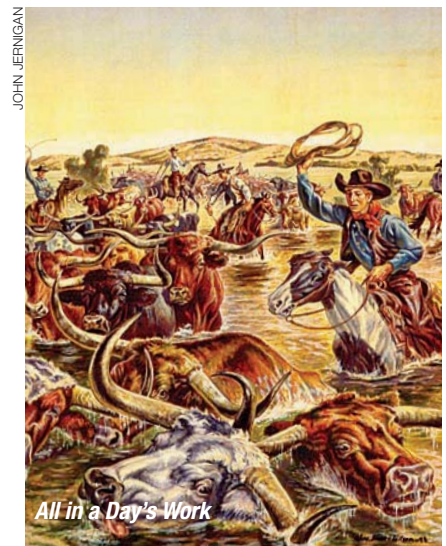
Charles Banks Wilson's career has come full circle. He sold his first painting, *Oklahoma Melody*, to oil man and art collector Thomas Gilcrease in 1943. "He thought I would amount to something," says Wilson. Now through March 9, 2008, Wilson has his second major showing at the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa (918/596-2700 or gilcrease.org) in **CHARLES BANKS WILSON: AN OKLAHOMA LIFE IN ART**, an exhibit that celebrates the ever-expanding portfolio of one of our greatest artists. —VALLERY BROWN

of the 1960s, record a history that was literally vanishing before his eyes.

Having painted Will Rogers from life a year before his death, Wilson remains the master of Oklahoma's favorite son, with paintings of Rogers in the State Capitol and the Will Rogers Memorial Museums, even on phone books.

"My America is Oklahoma," Wilson once said. And a grateful state has honored him with every award at hand, from the Oklahoma Hall of Fame and Governor's Art Award to designation as an Oklahoma Cultural Treasure, a category occupied by only ten others in our state's history.

One spot remained in the rotunda, however. In 1999, Wilson was approached



All in a Day's Work

JOHN JERNIGAN

'Wilson's work captures the history of a land Woody Guthrie sang about.'

JOHN JERNIGAN



by state senator Charles Ford, who offered him complete freedom to choose his subject. No directions, no conditions. He did just that, and Woody Guthrie, treasured by music lovers and those who care for the downtrodden, now sings in the Oklahoma State Capitol, cigarette in mouth and guitar in hand, about this land that is meant for all of us.

Charles Banks Wilson's oeuvre—from the massive murals that uplift what is now a real capitol dome to the still lifes painted in his studio, from the great portraits to the incomparable pencil sketches of the vanishing Purebloods—captures an America he learned about and one he experienced personally.

Only the art of a master can see not only what is but what ought to be. Wilson's work captures the history of a land Woody Guthrie sang about. It also shows the skill, vision, intellect, and drive of a man who can surely say, to paraphrase Virgil, "Some of these things I saw, and some of them I was."



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Charles Banks Wilson

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Kate Barnard at the State Capitol

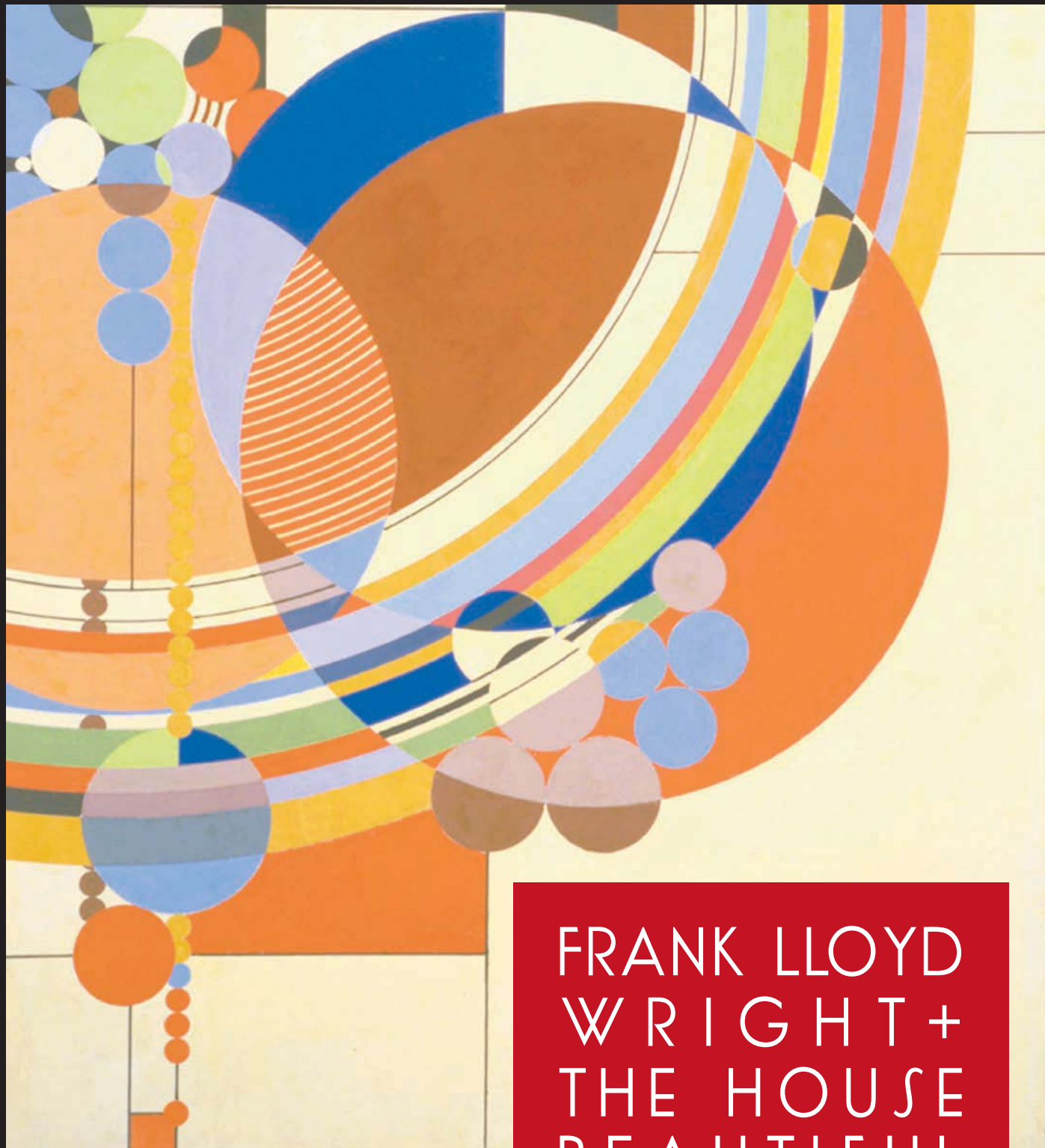


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FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT - *Courtesy of Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Scottsdale, AZ.*

1. Hanging Lamp, Susan Lawrence Dana House, 1902. Glass and brass.
2. Spindle-back chair, Frank Lloyd Wright House, Oak Park, Illinois, 1895.
3. Darwin D. Martin House Casement Windows, Buffalo, New York, 1903.

PHILBROOK MUSEUM OF ART



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Culture

"There are no rules for good photographs. There are only good photographs." —Ansel Adams



Exhibit

Picture It

America's best photojournalism is on display at this exhibit.

WAR, JOY, LOVE, peace, famine, and suffering—the broad spectrum of human experience is on display in *Capture the Moment: The Pulitzer Prize Photographs*. A traveling exhibit on loan from the Freedom Forum Newseum in Washington, D.C., *Capture the Moment* makes a stop at the International Photography Hall of Fame & Museum in Oklahoma City from December 15 to March 30, 2008.

The exhibit consists of the world's most iconic images, including a photo of the raising of the United States flag over Iwo Jima in 1945.

"Many of the images are ones we've grown up seeing in textbooks, newspapers, and publications," says Katie Sutton, director of the photography hall of fame.

Numbering 138 photographs, the exhibit

features the most comprehensive collection of Pulitzer Prize-winning images ever assembled. Photographs are at least thirty-by-forty-inch enlargements of the originals.

"They're huge," says Cyma Rubin, president of Business of Entertainment in New York and curator of the exhibit. "They make the viewer feel like they're really there."

"The reason we wanted to bring this exhibit to Oklahoma was because the Pulitzer Prize is the best example of photojournalism and an integral part of the history of photography," says Sutton. —PATRICK MADDOX

The International Photography Hall of Fame & Museum is on the second floor of the Omniplex Science Museum, 2100 Northeast Fifty-second Street in Oklahoma City. (405) 424-4055 or iphf.org.

FIGMENT OF THEIR MIGRATION
Dallas Kinney's eight-part series of photographs of migrant farm workers in Florida, *Migration to Misery*, earned him a Pulitzer Prize for feature photography in 1970. This image and the others in the series originally appeared in the *Palm Beach Post* in 1969.

Where the Buffalo Roam

Celebrating the Centennial is a matter of perspective, says Ami Reeves.

CHelsea IS THE name of a buffalo that lives behind the Chelsea Motor Inn. Not too many small-town motels can boast that a pet buffalo romps in the backyard, but not too many small towns are anything like Chelsea.

Besides, Frank Jugler, co-owner of the Chelsea Motor Inn, says Chelsea the Buffalo is just a big baby, hardly a beast. He scratches her snout while her thick, pink tongue whips out and licks his hand. He's giving her a giant bowl of kibble, something the two-and-a-half-year-old, 1,200-pound animal scampered like a preschooler at Christmas across the pasture to receive.

Frank and Trudy Jugler have invited my husband and me over for a meal of perfectly cooked roast and buttery mashed potatoes, Frank's specialty. I've been anxious to meet

the buffalo for a long time now, and when we don't see her by the time we sit down at the table, I'm a little worried she might have been turned into dinner. But when puffs of dust erupt beyond the dining room windows, it's evident that Chelsea is kicking up her heels in the pasture out back.

During our meal, we talk about the Centennial, and how places like Oklahoma City and Tulsa have had events lined up for years. The smaller towns, not so much.

Trudy traveled to Oklahoma City and purchased an official Centennial flag. The Juglers bought treated four-by-fours and two-by-sixes from the County Building Center on Fifth Street and erected an oil derrick out in front of the motel.

Since Frank is afraid of heights, he had someone else place the flag thirty-two feet up, where it now whips in the wind beside

Route 66. People pull off the highway to take pictures, once they've finished capturing the buffalo on film, of course. To my knowledge, that flag is the only evidence in town that we are in the midst of a Centennial.

This may be the most important twelve months in the state, but in our quiet corner of northeastern Oklahoma, it's pretty much business as usual. When the annual Christmas parade makes its way through downtown in the dark, the Centennial will not be looming large in any minds, but only because there are kids waiting for Santa and candy, moms with camcorders waiting to film the band, and veterans busy saluting the flag. Life continues very much the same way it always has here in Chelsea, even when the rest of the state is caught up in a fever.

After dinner, we go outside. The buffalo is eyeing me now, turning her head so that one

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GEORGE CATLIN/GETTY IMAGES

baleful eye takes me in from the other side of the fence. I once researched and wrote a piece about a buffalo ranch, so I know they can surprise you, jumping straight up and changing direction or going from zero to thirty in nothing flat. The fence isn't as high as it ought to be, I think.

Frank is telling us that his buffalo covets tomatoes. He used to pick from a vegetable garden in Chelsea's pasture and was walking toward the fence one day after gathering a bucket of tomatoes. Next thing he knew, his body flew through the air. Chelsea got her pick of tomatoes that day.

We talk about Chelsea's flaws—the town, not the buffalo. There's nothing for kids to do, not enough places to eat out, Main Street needs sprucing. Common complaints in small towns all across America.

But it's not the flaws that define us; it's the unique things, the good things. It's people like Frank and Trudy Jugler, who fell in love with this town and want nothing but to make it better. They plan to put up tepees north of Chelsea's pasture. They want to do theme rooms at the Motor Inn, a Route 66 room and a Native American room, anything to make this place a destination.

As the Centennial year draws to a close, the town of Chelsea continues to move forward as it simultaneously respects the past. Chelsea the Buffalo is a symbol of progress and innovation amid the old bricked streets and historic murals.

I've wanted a picture of her ever since I first noticed her behind the Motor Inn. I sink to the grass; Chelsea lowers her head and looks into her empty bowl of kibble. The camera clicks. 

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Heroes Remembered

At long last, Oklahomans create a memorial for a lost World War II ship.



Oklahoma City artist Greg Burns painted this rendition of the USS *Oklahoma* in May 2007.

GREG BURNS

ONE OF THE most memorable events in United States history occurred without warning on December 7, 1941, at 7:55 a.m.

at the Pearl Harbor naval base in Oahu, Hawaii. A surprise morning attack by Japanese military forces left 2,388 men dead.

Among the deceased, 429 were aboard the **USS *Oklahoma***, a ship that followed the navy's prac-

tice of naming vessels in honor of states. Hit by torpedoes, the 583-foot battleship capsized.

Despite 887 survivors, the ship had the second-highest number of fatalities that day. However, an official memorial for the deceased was never created. It was an oversight that would remain for fifty-eight years.

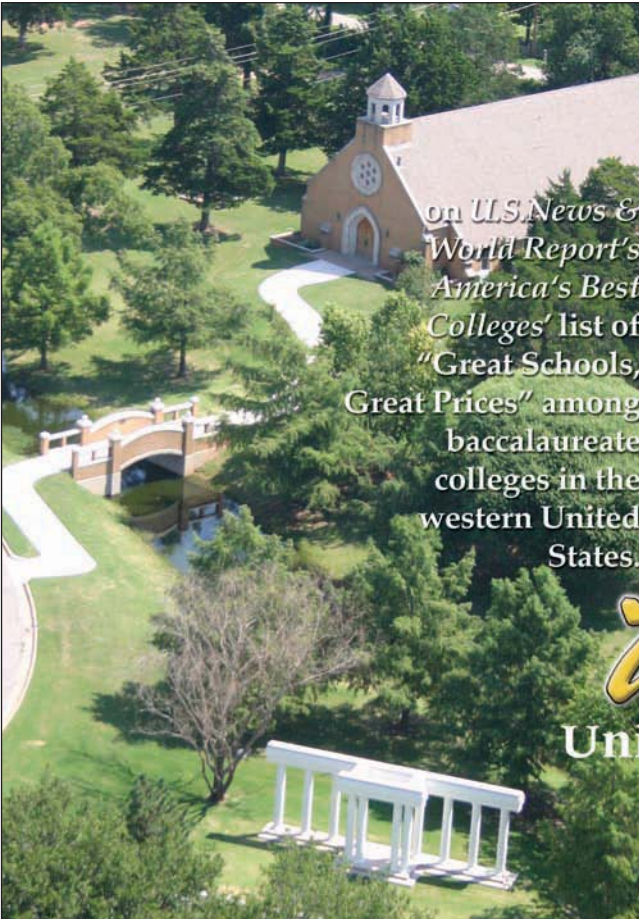
In 1999, retired United States Navy Commander Tucker McHugh of Edmond was made aware of the lack of a memorial—the only vessel attacked at Pearl Harbor without one—after watching a television program about battleship remnants in Pearl Harbor. McHugh, previously stationed on Ford Island in

Pearl Harbor, asked colleague and retired U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Greg Slavonic to investigate the recovered ship parts on an upcoming Hawaii trip.

“He did find pieces,” says McHugh. “But more importantly, we started thinking about how there wasn’t a memorial to the USS *Oklahoma*. It was a shameful oversight.”

McHugh and Slavonic, of Oklahoma City, formed a committee, the USS *Oklahoma* Memorial at Pearl Harbor Committee, in early 2000.

Financing was the result of fundraising efforts that began in 2006, led by First Lady Kim Henry and Oklahoma City



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U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Greg Slavonic of Oklahoma City

businessman and civic volunteer Mike McAuliffe.

The campaign raised approximately \$600,000, and because the memorial is a Centennial project, the Centennial Commission agreed to allocate the funds necessary to complete the memorial.

The memorial itself, designed by Oklahoma architect Don Beck of Beck Design, will be constructed of Italian black granite

and white marble. The V-shaped design will include a four-foot-tall black granite wall with etchings of the battleship. Behind the wall, 429 seven-foot marble standards, or poles, each will be engraved with the name of a fallen sailor or marine; a thirty-eight-foot flagpole will be centered within the configuration.

"It's very simple," says Slavonic. "We wanted it to be a subtle and moving memorial."

The dedication of the memorial takes place at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 2007, the sixty-sixth anniversary of the attack. Eight

hundred are expected to attend, including Governor Brad Henry, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne, survivors, and family members.

The ceremony is the final piece of a puzzle that took more than six decades to complete, and committee members hope the memorial serves as a tribute and a tool for learning.

"Educating our youth is an underlying factor in all of this," says Slavonic. "They need to understand what happened on December 7, 1941,

and know that there were 429 men who died that day for their freedom."

First Lady Kim Henry echoes these sentiments. "Time has resulted in an alarming number of Americans who do not truly appreciate what happened that day," she says.

The USS *Oklahoma* memorial will help ensure an understanding of that infamous day well into the future.

—Andrea Miller

Set in Stone

THIS MEMORIAL IS ALL ABOUT ITS NAMESAKE.

Although the black granite is from Italy and the white marble from Vermont, the USS *Oklahoma* memorial

is very much a product of the state it is named after. The stone's fabrication and cutting took place

at EuroCraft in Glenpool, and all other building materials and labor originated in Oklahoma.

Even the forty-foot flagpole, the centerpiece to the memorial, was donated by Edmond's Pelco Products.



DON BECK

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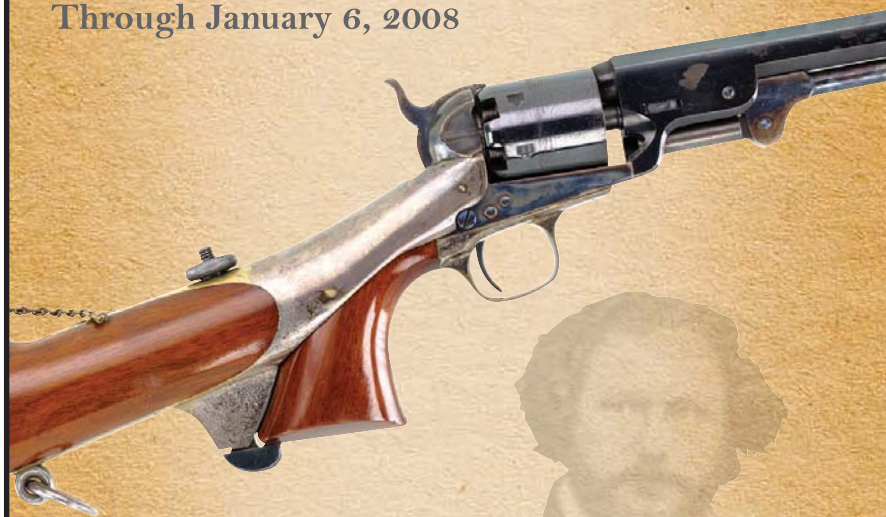


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By Raya-Gabrielle Ramsey

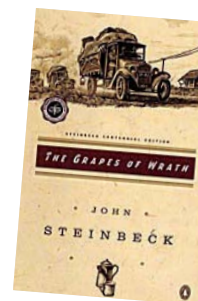


Beauty and the Beast

An Oklahoma City production company, EthnoGraphic Media, takes on the tricky battle of condoms versus abstinence in Africa in *Miss HIV*. Capturing the odd juxtaposition of HIV-positive women competing in a beauty pageant for the title of "Miss HIV Stigma-Free," the documentary takes a close look at attempts to find beauty within the disease. Release expected by late December. misshiv.com.

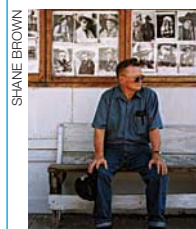
Wrath of Joad

The Dust Bowl will be brought to life on stage in Oklahoma City this November when Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park presents John Steinbeck's classic, *The Grapes of Wrath*, at Stage Center's Tolbert Theatre. November 1 through 4 and 8 through 11. Tickets, \$20. oklahomashakespeare.com.



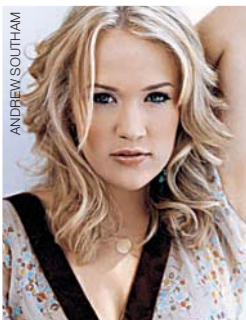
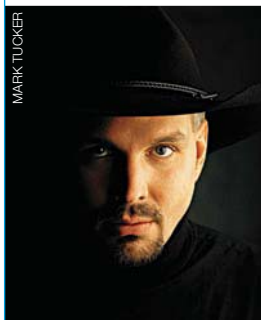
Little Pichers

The Creek Runs Red, directed and produced by a trio with Oklahoma ties—Bradley Beesley, Julianna Brannum, and James Payne—sheds light on a dark little town where people still live on toxic land.



SHANE BROWN

Picher residents have been forced to make a tough choice to stay or leave, creating division between neighbors. Premieres November 20 on PBS's *Independent Lens* series.



Garth Brooks, Carrie Underwood, Toby Keith, and Vince Gill will provide the star power at the sold-out Centennial Spectacular at the Ford Center on November 16.

In Concert

Oklahoma stars come out to play at the Centennial Spectacular.

OKLAHOMA'S CENTENNIAL EVENTS have made this year a dazzling display of state pride. But the crown jewel might be the **Centennial Spectacular** on the evening of November 16, Statehood Day.

The Oklahoma Centennial Commission is calling the Spectacular "the event of a lifetime." The star-studded list of Oklahomans slated to appear—including **Reba McEntire, the Flaming Lips, Garth Brooks, Vince Gill, Carrie Underwood, and Toby Keith**—will draw an audience

that will require more space than the Ford Center can provide.

Thousands more will watch the event on OETA and at an overflow concert at AT&T Bricktown Ballpark. The free show also will feature **Bryan White, Horseshoe Road, Ty England**, and others performing after the Ford Center show, which will be broadcast to the ballpark on a big screen. Fireworks will complete the celebration.

The Spectacular is the brainchild of Lee Allan Smith, the Centennial Commission's Chairman of Projects and Events. He says the show is designed for everyone, not just those who wrangle tickets.

"Oklahomans watching live and on TV will see something magnificent," says Smith.

Oklahoma natives take center stage at the Spectacular. Country's hottest star, Carrie Underwood, is taking time out from promoting her new album, *Carnival Ride*, to perform.

"It's wonderful to celebrate such heritage and history and be part of this lineup of Oklahoma performers," she says. "Besides, birthdays are always fun!"—Cristi Laquer

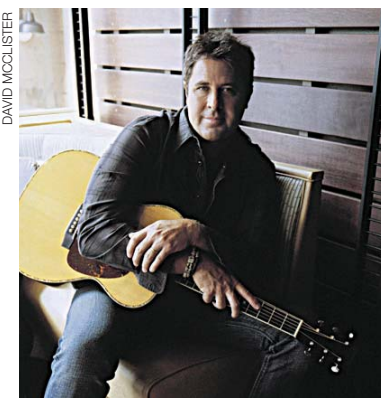
Stage and Screen

TECHNOLOGICAL MARVELS ARE MANY AT THE CENTENNIAL SPECTACULAR.

With multiple acts, the stage is a critical part of the show. The Spectacular's is tiered, with enough space to hold the members of the Oklahoma City Philharmonic and Canterbury Choral Society. Above the set: a 20-foot-tall, 180-foot-wide screen.

"We wanted this to feel like a once-in-a-statehood celebration everybody can be a part of," says creative director and Oklahoma native Stephen Dahlem of Texas-based CorporateMagic.

The Spectacular will maximize the Ford Center's technological capacity, with LED screens mounted on retractable stage walls and a 180-degree ring of screens. Dahlem's team is also planning big-time pyrotechnics. "You will just freak out when you see this," Dahlem says.



Get This!

Cartoon Hero

Okmulgee author Robby McMurtry gives OSU mascot Pistol Pete another dimension in *Gunplay: The True Story of Pistol Pete on the Hootowl Trail*, a graphic novel of romance and revenge in the Old West. \$16.95. newforums.com.





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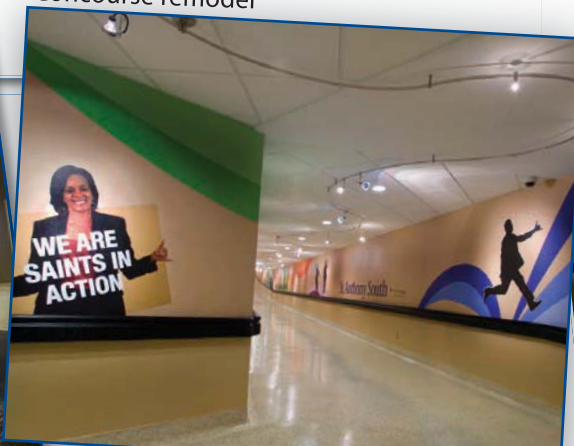
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1956

1930

THE WAY WE WERE

The History File

Unclassified: Oklahoma is famously a land of extremes, a place where our best day often arises out of our worst, where boom begets bust, where swamp meets desert. Here, Oklahoma Today reflects on those big moments, from the earliest explorers to the Centennial commemoration.

BY RAYA-GABRIELLE RAMSEY

1540

CORONADO EXPLORES

Spanish explorer Francisco Vázquez de Coronado traveled upward from Mexico, hunting for treasure and riches in a rumored "Lost City of Gold." Instead, he discovered the United States Southwest and a variety of natives cultivating the land. His discovery, which left him without gold and silver, was considered a failure.

1803

LOUISIANA PURCHASE

Considered one of the greatest land bargains in history, the Louisiana Purchase made the land Oklahoma now occupies part of the United States. The U.S. government paid France \$27,267,622 for the land, which later became the foundation of thirteen states.

1838

TRAIL OF TEARS

Thousands of Native Americans were forced to travel a sorrowful path when the Indian Removal Act of 1830 required them to leave their land. A few years later, Native Americans on the journey to Indian Territory—now Oklahoma—endured disease, starvation, and the death of family members.

1905

GLENN POOL OIL FIELD

It was the beginning of Oklahoma's booming economic future when Robert F. Galbreath and Frank Chesley discovered this legendary well at 5 a.m. on November 22, 1905. The gusher on the Glenn Pool field sparked a rush of new arrivals to the state, all eager to capitalize on the oil boom.



1907

STATEHOOD

On November 16, 1907, Oklahoma became the forty-sixth state. Led by the discovery of oil, government acts unifying the Indian and Oklahoma territories, and a state Constitutional Convention and election, Oklahoma statehood became official at 9 a.m. under President Theodore Roosevelt.

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1930

DUST BOWL

During the 1930s, a series of dust storms devastated the southern plains. The colossal storms—almost 400 in Oklahoma alone—blackened the sky, sweeping across the land while destroying Oklahoma agriculture during the Great Depression. Thousands of families left the dry, windy environment, many headed to California.

1935

TRAGEDY AT POINT BARROW

Fellow Oklahomans Will Rogers, "Oklahoma's favorite son," and legendary pilot Wiley Post embarked on an ill-fated flight to Point Barrow, Alaska. In an attempt to find a route from the United States to Russia, the men perished shortly after takeoff on August 15, 1935, when the plane crashed.



1943

OKLAHOMA! ON BROADWAY

Based on the 1931 play *Green Grow the Lilacs* by Claremore native Lynn Riggs, *Oklahoma!* opened on March 31, 1943, and went on to break Great White Way records. With its unusual cast made up of singers instead of stars and its unconventional use of music to narrate the plot, the production amassed more than two thousand Broadway performances.

1959

REPEAL OF PROHIBITION

Oklahoma had been dry since statehood was proclaimed in 1907. In 1933, national Prohibition was repealed by ratification of the Twenty-first Amendment. The same year, Oklahoma declared beer with 3.2 percent alcohol content legal. In 1959, Oklahoma jumped on the bandwagon and fully repealed its own prohibition.

1986

OIL BUST

The oil boom ended. An oversupply of oil around the world saw the price of oil plummet to \$11.15 per barrel. Jobs in the industry became numbered, banks failed, and the government added an increase in taxes to soothe Oklahoma's financial crisis.

1962

REAPPORTIONMENT

Although 30 percent of Oklahomans lived in the Tulsa and Oklahoma City areas in the sixties, political power remained with the rural population because district boundaries had not been redefined since 1907. In 1964, a federal court ordered that legislative district lines be redrawn so that they were equal in population.

1995

OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING

On April 19, 1995, the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City became the site of the deadliest act of domestic terrorism in the United States. When explosives in a nearby truck detonated at 9:02 a.m., 168 Oklahomans were killed, including nineteen children in the building's daycare center.

1962

BELLMON ELECTED

In November 1962, the long, uninterrupted chain of Democratic governors came to an end with the election of Henry Bellmon. A wheat farmer, marine, and Oklahoma State University graduate, Bellmon became the first of three Republican governors in Oklahoma.

1964

CIVIL RIGHTS

Oklahoma was home to Jim Crow laws, a constitution that encouraged segregation, and the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921. But it was also a place where African Americans could prosper after the Civil War and a place where effective demonstrations like the Katz Drug sit-ins promoted the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that ended public segregation.

OKLAHOMA TOURISM



2002

DOMED DEDICATION

Once one of the seven state capitol buildings without a dome, the Oklahoma State Capitol reduced that group by one on November 16, 2002. Although the original 1914 design of the building included a dome, it never was constructed. The capitol's \$21 million cap is 157 feet tall and weighs about five million pounds.

2007

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

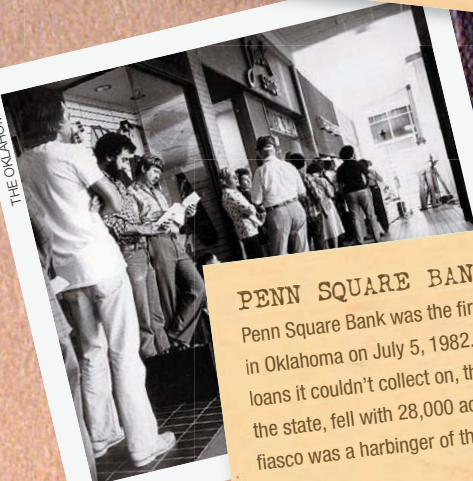
Oklahoma enjoys its one hundredth birthday on November 16, 2007. Across the state, Oklahomans have spent the past year honoring our unique people, geographic beauty, and cultural diversity while celebrating the progress and success arising from the state's remarkable past. More than a thousand events and projects have culminated to commemorate this historic moment.

1982

PENN SQUARE BANK COLLAPSE

Penn Square Bank was the first of 139 banks to collapse in Oklahoma on July 5, 1982. With too many energy loans it couldn't collect on, the bank, the fourth-largest in the state, fell with 28,000 accounts in its care. The fiscal fiasco was a harbinger of the oil bust that followed.

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8 p.m. November 29 - December 1
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3 p.m. March 8 and 9

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Exhibition: *Collecting Oklahoma*, The University of Oklahoma and its Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History are celebrating the state's Centennial year with a special exhibit. For more information, visit at www.snomnh.ou.edu, or call (405) 325-4712.

Oct 1-Nov 30

Exhibition: *Landscapes & Memories*, The NAC gallery will showcase *Landscapes & Memories* by Patricia Hunt Allen. The gallery is located at 101 E. Main, Suite 101 and can be reached by calling 360.1162. The exhibit will run throughout October and November. The NAC Gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Oct 7-Nov 25

***Exhibition:** *Gallery Opening*, Performing Arts Studio in the Norman Depot present Norma Brown and Nathan Brown on display through Nov. 25. For more information, call (405) 307.9320 or visit www.thepas.org.

***Exhibition:** *The Inner Culture of Mirac Creepingbear* (Kiowa/Arapaho), The Jacobson House Native Art Center present *Mirac Creepingbear*. For more information, visit www.jacobsonhouse.com.

Nov 1-15

Education: *Global Climate Change: Impacts -- Past... Present...and Future!*, Join the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays, Nov. 1, 8 & 15. For more information, visit www.snomnh.ou.edu.

Nov 1

Auction: *OU School of Dance*, Join OU School of Dance patrons and a special guest for the annual dinner, auction and performances by Oklahoma Festival Ballet and Contemporary Dance Oklahoma. For more information please contact the OU School of Dance at (405) 325.4051.

Nov 4-Dec 23

Exhibition: *Collection Connections*, Experience museum collections up close as the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History museum staff share fossils, specimens, artifacts, tools, and other objects related to the Oklahoma Centennial. For more information, visit www.snomnh.ou.edu.

Nov 9-18

Theatre: *Blithe Spirit*, The University of Oklahoma Theatre presents the Oscar and Tony Award comedy at 8 p.m. on Nov. 9-10 and 15-17, 3 p.m. Nov. 11 and 18. For more information, call (405) 325.4101.

Nov 9

Family Day: *Family Night Out: Bird Feeders*, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History present a fun night out with the family at the museum from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday Nov. 9. For more information, visit www.snomnh.ou.edu.

Nov 15

Workshop: *The Nutcracker*, Join Dance Partners, the OU School of Dance support organization, on the stage of the Ruppel Jones Theatre on OU's Norman campus to explore the technical magic of *The Nutcracker*. For more information please contact the School of Dance at (405) 325.4051.

Nov 16

Free Admission: *Statehood Day*, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History presents free admission courtesy of TIAA-Cref's Oklahoma College Savings Plan at 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 16. For more information, visit www.snomnh.ou.edu.

Nov 29-Dec 9

Ballet: *The Nutcracker*, Bring the whole family to enjoy the magic of the holiday season with Oklahoma Festival Ballet's lavish production of this beloved story. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Nov. 29-Dec.1 and Dec. 6-8, at 3 p.m. Dec. 2 and 9, and at 10 a.m. on Dec. 5. For more information, call (405) 325.4101.

Nov 30-Dec 8

***Theatre:** *Scrooge*, The Sooner Theatre presents *Scrooge*, Nov. 30, Dec. 1-2 & 6-8. Broadway actor Thomas E. Cunningham - appearing courtesy of Actors' Equity Association - plays the title role in this spectacular musical extravaganza. For more information, call (405) 321.9600.

Nov 30-Dec 1

Art Walk: *Winterfest Art Walk 2007*, The art walk takes place from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Friday, November 30, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, December 1. Many of the participating galleries and businesses will serve light refreshments with entertainment at some venues. Many venues will be giving away door prizes. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (405) 360.1162.

Nov 30-Dec 4

Artrain USA: *Native Views: Influences of Modern Culture*, The Winter Art Walk 2007 welcomes the return of Artrain USA with an opening reception from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, November 30. *Native Views: Influences of Modern Culture* is the theme for Artrain USA's final tour and will showcase 71 contemporary artworks by 54 Native American artists. School tours are available through reservation only. For more information, contact the Norman Arts Council at (405) 360.1162.

Dec 2-22

***Exhibition:** *Scandinavian Cultural Christmas Exhibition:* Iceland, The Jacobson Native Art Center presents the annual Scandinavian Cultural Exhibition showcases the distinct artistic and cultural traditions of Iceland. For more information, visit www.jacobsonhouse.com.

Dec 6

Free Admission: *Holiday Happening*, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History presents free museum admission courtesy of Arvest Bank at 6 to 9 p.m. For more information, visit www.snomnh.ou.edu.

* Denotes events funded in part by the Norman Arts Council Hotel Tax Grant Program.

For complete descriptions www.NormanArts.org/events

Native Views: Influences of Modern Culture

...showcasing 71 contemporary artworks by 54 Native American artists.

Opening reception

**6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
November 30.**



Winterfest ArtWalk: November 30 through December 1



The Winterfest Art Walk 2007

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The Crucible Foundry & Gallery • 405.579.2700
On the corner of Jones & Tonhawa

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115 South Santa Fe

Dreamer Concepts Studio & Foundation • 405.701.0048
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Firehouse Art Center • 405.329.4523
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Jacobson House Native Art Center • 405.366.1667
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MAINSITE Contemporary Art • 405.292.8095
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Friday, November 30, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
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By Brooke Adcox

Grand Old Flag

OKLAHOMA'S FLAG REIGNS SUPREME AS THE EMBLEM OF THE LAND WE LOVE.

DESPITE OUR MUCH-REFERENCED land runs, Oklahoma's culture didn't develop overnight. It has steadily formed over one hundred years through a continuous weaving of people, events, and experiences much like the intertwined threads of the Oklahoma state flag. Perhaps that is why such a simple state emblem could have such a storied past, arguably garnering as much statewide press over the years as Garth Brooks and Carrie Underwood combined.

Oklahoma's first flag was adopted in 1911, a red flag that featured the number

forty-six—Oklahoma is the forty-sixth state—framed by a white star outlined in blue.

According to a 1931 article by Mrs. Andrew R. Hickam, the state regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution, in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, that original flag “expressed nothing of the sentiment or historical significance of Oklahoma and never made a successful appeal to the popular interest in the state.”

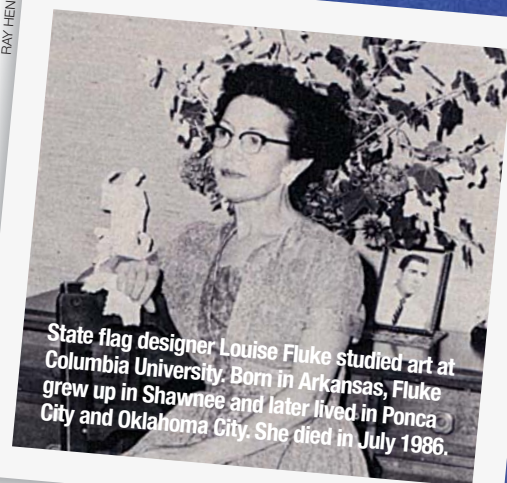
Often called the “red rag of sedition,” the flag and its vaguely Communist appearance inspired the Oklahoma chapter of the DAR to hold a statewide competition in 1925 calling for a redesign.

Oklahoma City resident and artist Louise Fluke won the contest with the current rendition of the Oklahoma flag, a sky blue pennant with an Osage shield, calumet (or peace pipe), and olive branch. Fluke designed the flag in homage to the past, present, and future of the state, telling *Oklahoma Today* in 1956, “Oklahoma has come a long way since 1907. As the state grows older and more prosperous, I believe that our flag, too, grows more meaningful with each passing year.”

Even though Fluke's design was adopted by the Oklahoma state legislature in 1925, future incarnations weren't without contro-

GEORGE FLUKE

RAY HENDLEY



State flag designer Louise Fluke studied art at Columbia University. Born in Arkansas, Fluke grew up in Shawnee and later lived in Ponca City and Oklahoma City. She died in July 1986.

Material World

- November 16 marks the annual Oklahoma State Flag Day as well as Statehood Day.
- The Oklahoma Historical Society is in possession of several of Louise Fluke's original designs and the emblems she used as models to design the flag.
- Dozens of flags have flown over Oklahoma, from Coronado's Royal Standard of Spain (1541) to the Lone Star Flag of Texas, which flew over the Oklahoma Panhandle from 1839 to 1850. Fourteen are on display at the Oklahoma Capitol Flag Plaza.
- Eleven state flags feature the state name in bold lettering.
- Blue is the most popular U.S. state flag color, appearing as the background in twenty-nine state flags.

versy. In 1941, the Oklahoma legislature added the word *Oklahoma* in bold white lettering, a much-ballyhooed decision debated until 1988, when the legislature ruled the label would stay. As recently as 2000, state representative Bill Nations submitted a proposal to remove the label but later withdrew it.

Numerous other measures took place over the years to standardize visual elements with Pantone PMS colors and—because different flag manufacturers took it upon themselves to change the flag—the flag's

BANNER DAY FOR OKLAHOMA

True Blue

The bright sky blue background—the color is Pantone PMS 285—represents devotion.

Armor All

The Osage shield stands for defensive warfare and features six painted crosses on the face and seven pendant eagle feathers at the bottom.

Peace Corps

The calumet and olive branch symbolize peace between the Native American and European American cultures.



Louise Fluke's original watercolor rendering of the state flag was digitally restored in 2005 by students at Pioneer Technology Center in Ponca City.

High-Flying Art

Oklahoma's flag proudly waves at several Oklahoma Centennial project sites. The **LOUISE FLUKE OKLAHOMA FLAG PLAZA** at Standing Bear Native American Memorial Park in Ponca City features a rendition of Fluke's design at the site's memorial plaza, and the **46-STAR SCULPTURE** in Guthrie depicts local women sewing the forty-sixth star on the American flag. oklahomacentennial.com.

symbolism down to the finest details. Perhaps most argued among Oklahoma's historical community is which hand-painted flag is truly Fluke's original work of art.

"Mrs. Fluke made several copies of the flag," says Bob Blackburn, executive director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, which houses many of Fluke's original sketches and documentation. "Some are drawings on paper, and some are hand painted on cloth," says Blackburn, explaining why it is hard to pin down the very first. But in 2005, Louise Fluke's son George donated what is

thought to be the original hand-sewn state flag to the Oklahoma State Capitol.

Regardless of its curious past, the Oklahoma flag is still a strong symbol that unifies the entire state.

"The flag represents all of us," says Blackburn. "The good, the bad, the Oklahoma experience." 

State Pride for Sale

Oklahoma flags are available at a number of vendors, including *Oklahoma Today*. \$30. (405) 230-8450 or oklahomatoday.com.

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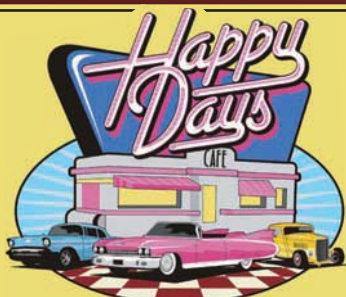
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For more information, call (866) 763-8092



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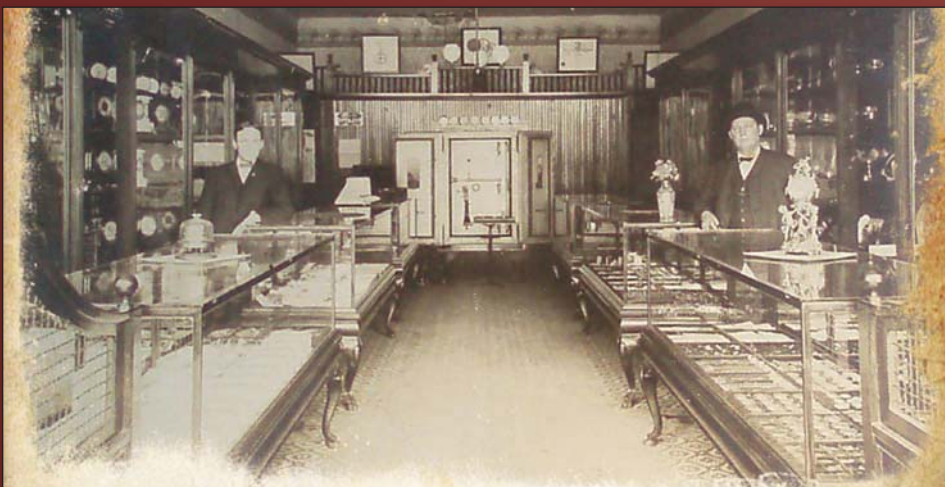
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We, the

Ridiculed for its length, famed for its progressive positions (except when it came to race and gender), the Oklahoma Constitution depicted our new state in its extremes. NEAL LEADER, an expert on the document, shows us why it's so special.



OKLAHOMA BECAME THE forty-sixth state at the height of the country's progressive movement, and its constitution was a product of its time—the time of American robber barons like John D. Rockefeller and Cornelius Vanderbilt, monopolistic trusts such as Standard Oil and U.S. Steel, and the populist call for antitrust laws, regulation of large corporations, and social justice. The goal of the Oklahoma Constitution was to create a new kind of state, a state that protected the people from monopolies and corrupt government officials. In short, its goal was to create a state where, as the lapel pins supporting adoption of the constitution proclaimed, the people rule.

Show and Tell

The CONSTITUTION is written in longhand on 112 leaves of parchment paper, approximately seventeen-and-a-half inches by fourteen inches in size and approximately two inches thick. It is bound at the top and protected by a burgundy leather cover. Attached to it is the separate prohibition article, the acceptance of the Enabling Act (the federal act authorizing statehood), a resolution adopting the U.S. Constitution, and a certification of the documents. The title *Constitution of the State of Oklahoma 1907* is stamped in gold on the front cover.

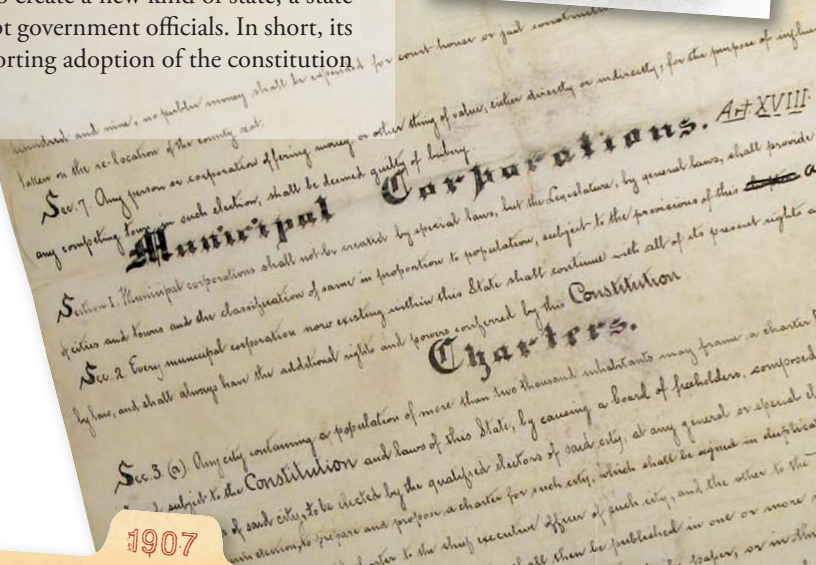
Draft Dodging

Most of the CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION's work was done in its first session, which ran from November 20, 1906, to March 15, 1907. The constitution was then transcribed on parchment paper, and the convention met in two shorter sessions for final adoption and to consider the objections of President Theodore Roosevelt and Attorney General Charles Bonaparte. The convention approved mostly minor wording changes and delineations, made on the parchment pages by scratching out language and adding new or amended language by inserting new text between lines.

WESTERN HISTORY COLLECTIONS



Sequoyah



1907

Years of attempts to secure a separate state, ultimately known as the State of Sequoyah, in Indian Territory eventually failed, resulting in the unification of Oklahoma and Indian territories to form the State of Oklahoma.



People

1907

During his term as governor, Charles Haskell championed prohibition and railroad regulations and supported measures to protect Oklahomans from corporate exploitation. Haskell died at the Skirvin Hotel in Oklahoma City on July 5, 1933, at age 72.

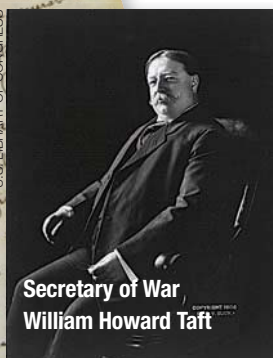


One Subject, One Law, Please

LOG ROLLING is the practice of assuring a law's passage by forcing agreement to an unfavorable provision in order to pass a favorable one, or vice versa. It is not prohibited in the United States Constitution, so a popular federal measure like an antiterrorist bill may have unrelated matters—local building projects, for example—attached to it. The Oklahoma Constitution prohibits log rolling, requiring that each act of the legislature embrace only one subject and that the subject be clearly expressed in the bill's title. Laws are still regularly challenged on the basis of this provision.

Sequoyah First

For years, the U.S. Congress could not decide whether to admit Indian Territory and Oklahoma Territory to the Union as separate states or a single state. In 1905, Indian Territory citizens made a last-ditch effort to be admitted to the Union as a separate state, the **STATE OF SEQUOYAH**, named after the famous Cherokee who developed the tribe's syllabary. Two prominent members of the movement were William H. Murray, later president of the Oklahoma Constitutional Convention, and Charles N. Haskell, a member of the convention subsequently elected Oklahoma's first Governor. Haskell secured the agreement of Indian leaders to support single statehood if the Sequoyah movement failed, thus successfully ending Indian opposition to single statehood. The Sequoyah movement and its constitution had a profound influence upon the Oklahoma Constitution. Of the fifty-five delegates from Indian Territory who served in the state Constitutional Convention, thirty-four were delegates at the Sequoyah Convention. It is thus no surprise that most of the progressive provisions in the Sequoyah Constitution were adopted by the Oklahoma Constitutional Convention.



Secretary of War
William Howard Taft

The Sheer Heft of It

The Oklahoma Constitution contains more than 250,000 words and is the longest in the world. One article—article 9, which deals with corporations—is more than 50,000 words long, longer than the entire U.S. Constitution. In attacking the Oklahoma Constitution's **LENGTH** at a speech in Oklahoma City, Secretary of War William Howard Taft concluded that it was not really a constitution at all. "It is a code of law; indeed, it is a code of bylaw," he said. Taft also saw the Oklahoma constitution as the product of "bourbonism and despotism, flavored with socialism."

"TWO FOR ONE;
ONE FOR ALL."

IMMEDIATE
SINGLE
STATEHOOD

DELEGATE
FROM
GUTHRIE
AND
LOGAN
COUNTY

JULY 12TH
1905

Power at the Polls

The state's first leaders fostered popular democracy by making almost every public office an **ELECTED OFFICE**. This practice resulted in the so-called bed-sheet ballots, ballots long enough to be a bed sheet.

1907

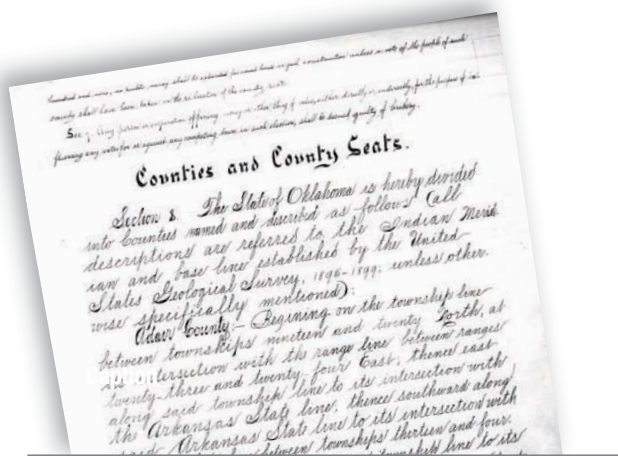
A frequent topic in newspaper stories of the time, prohibition was written into Oklahoma law with the constitution's ratification and gave rise to a healthy bootlegging trade throughout the state.

OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Bottled Up

The liquor question was a decisive issue at the Constitutional Convention. In authorizing statehood, Congress had required **PROHIBITION** in Indian Territory for twenty-one years. The Anti-Saloon League and others championed statewide prohibition. The convention avoided the possibility of the statewide prohibition proposal influencing the adoption of the constitution by separately submitting the prohibition article for ratification. Both were adopted.



Hired Hands

Joseph E. Johnston of Alva transcribed the final draft of the constitution in longhand. William H. Murray, the Constitutional Convention's president, hired a second **DRAFTSMAN**, C.C. Clothier of Guthrie, realizing that a single draftsman could not complete the document on time. Shortly thereafter, Murray discharged Johnston because he suspected that Johnston intended to make subtle changes in a draft to water down an article's regulations. The portions of the constitution drafted by Johnston are in Old English script; the portions drafted by Clothier are in a larger, plain script.

Gone But Not Forgotten

One of the major controversies at the Constitutional Convention was whether women would have the right to vote. At the time the constitution was adopted, many states had Jim Crow laws separating blacks from whites. The **WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE** provision failed as a result of Jim Crow. One of the arguments against it was that it increased black political power because black women voted more frequently than white women. This argument was borne out by the results of a school board election in Guthrie. Under territorial law, school board elections were the only ones in which women could vote. As it turned out, a total of 751 black women had voted and only 7 white women. A vote on the women's suffrage issue was forced just after the election, and the measure failed. Also absent from the Oklahoma Constitution, to a large extent based on Jim Crowism, is an equal protection clause.



Move on Down the Road

In authorizing statehood, Congress required that the **STATE CAPITAL** remain in Guthrie until 1913. In spite of this, a statewide election was held in 1910 to move it to Oklahoma City, and voters handily approved it. To ensure that those challenging the election did not improve their position by maintaining official state records in Guthrie, on the night of the election, Governor Haskell arranged to have his secretary secretly remove both the state seal and the official record of executive acts to Oklahoma City. It was not, however, the removal of the seal and record from Guthrie that changed the capital's location, it was the vote of the people—the people ruled.

1907

The Oklahoma Constitution contains 29 articles covering everything from corporations to the Department of Wildlife Conservation, polygamy, and impeachment.



OKLAHOMA SECRETARY OF STATE

The Last Word

AT A RECENT ceremony celebrating the new permanent home of the original parchment Oklahoma Constitution, Oklahoma Supreme Court Chief Justice Joseph Watt quoted the famous observation, "Justice is everyone's business . . . it affects every man's fireside; it passes on his property, his

reputation, his liberty, his life."

The framers of the Oklahoma Constitution drafted a progressive constitution intended to protect common citizens, workers, and consumers not only from the dangers posed by monopolies and unregulated corporations but from the government itself.

While this progressive constitution was much longer and more detailed than other constitutions, the framers provided for its amendment by vote of the people so that as times changed and amendments were needed or desired, the people would still rule. One hundred years later, they still do.



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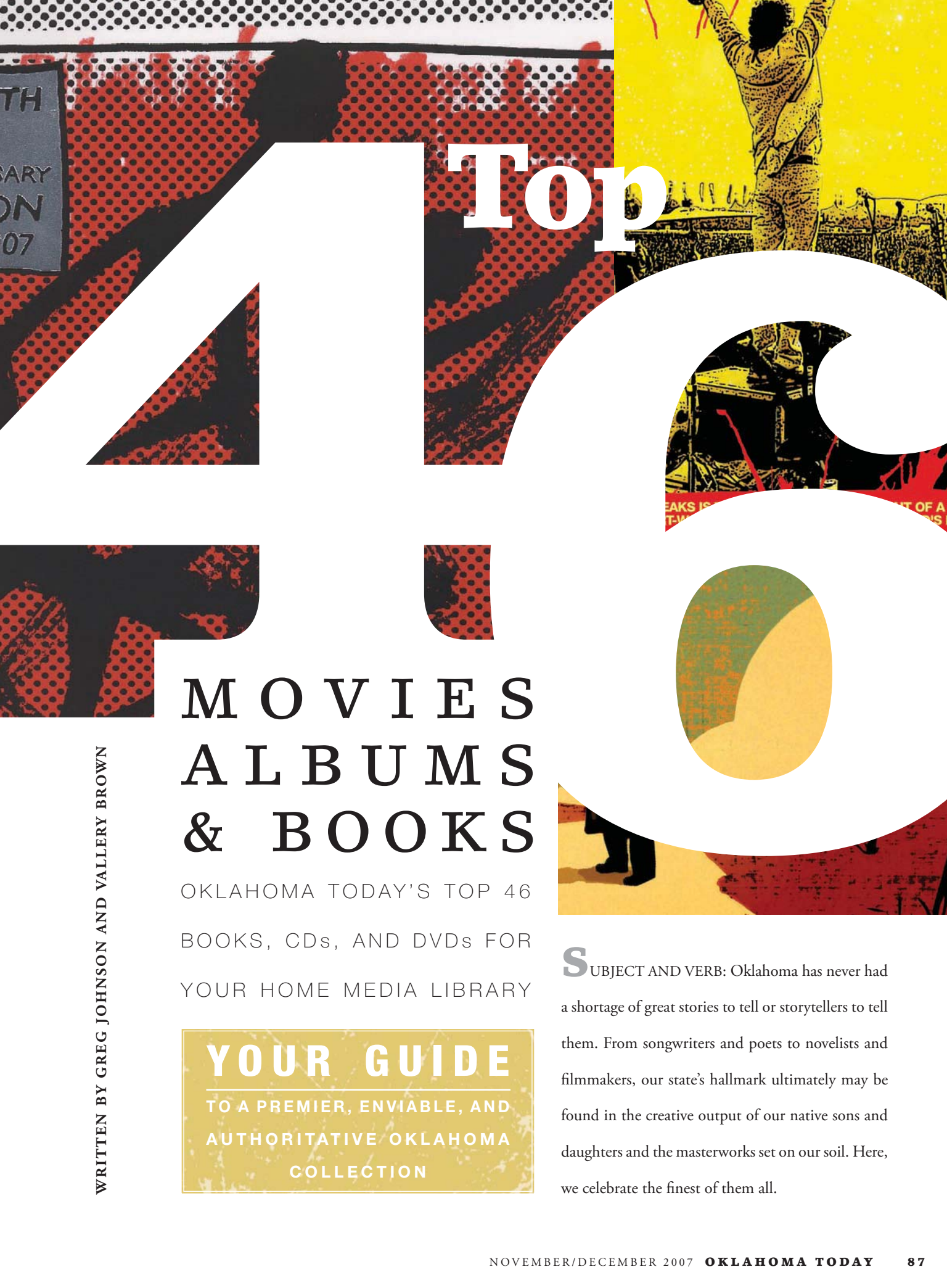


OU - Oklahoma's Academic Flagship



- OU is number one in the nation per capita among public universities in the number of National Merit Scholars enrolled. Over six hundred National Merit Scholars currently are enrolled at OU.
- The University of Oklahoma ranks in the top 10 in the nation in the Freshman Year Experience, according to a national study by the Policy Center on the First Year of College. The study recognizes OU's initiatives for first-year students and its commitment to put students first.
- OU is one of the few public universities in the nation to cap the class size of first-year English composition courses at no more than 19 students.
- OU enrolled the largest freshman class at a four-year public university in Oklahoma history. Over 10% of the entire freshman class came from high schools with a perfect 4.0 grade average.
- *The Princeton Review* ranks OU among the Top 10 public universities in the nation in terms of academic excellence and cost for students. The list included universities like the University of California-Berkeley, University of Virginia-Charlottesville and the University of Michigan.
- OU is the highest-ranked public university in the history of Oklahoma in the *U.S. News and World Report*.
- OU has over a \$1.5 billion impact on the state's economy each year.
- OU won the National Intercollegiate Debate Championship this year, as well as the Harvard, Northwestern, and Wake Forest tournaments.
- With seven Goldwater Scholars in the past two years, OU ranks in the top 10 universities in the entire nation to demonstrate leadership in science and mathematics.
- OU ranks first in the Big 12 and at the top in the nation in international exchange agreements with countries around the world. The University has 174 student exchange agreements with universities in 64 countries. Fourteen hundred students from 96 countries are enrolled on OU's Norman campus.
- The University has created an Honors College with one of the largest honors programs among public universities in the United States. More than 2,600 students participate in small classes of 19 or less.
- Just one year after launching a five-year, \$50 million Campaign for Scholarship endowments, OU achieved its goal and has now passed the \$90 million mark, allowing the university to award hundreds of new scholarships and ensure that OU will remain affordable and keep open the door of opportunity for all qualified students.

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MOVIES ALBUMS & BOOKS

OKLAHOMA TODAY'S TOP 46
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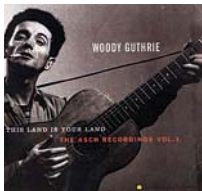
YOUR GUIDE

TO A PREMIER, ENVIABLE, AND
AUTHORITATIVE OKLAHOMA
COLLECTION

WRITTEN BY GREG JOHNSON AND VALLERY BROWN

SUBJECT AND VERB: Oklahoma has never had a shortage of great stories to tell or storytellers to tell them. From songwriters and poets to novelists and filmmakers, our state's hallmark ultimately may be found in the creative output of our native sons and daughters and the masterworks set on our soil. Here, we celebrate the finest of them all.

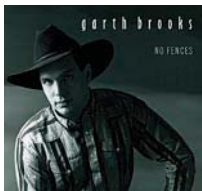
MUSIC

**Woody Guthrie, *The Asch Recordings***

This is the most complete collection of the music of Oklahoma's best-loved poet of songs. All four CDs included in *The Asch Recordings* have been released individually: *This Land Is Your Land* (akin to a best of set), *Muleskinner Blues* (Guthrie's favorite songs from many sources), *Hard Travelin'* (his topical songs), and *Buffalo Skinners* (western-themed songs). This is essential listening for songwriters and folk fans.

**Vince Gill, *These Days***

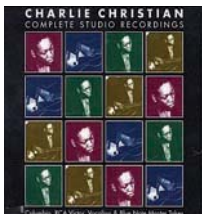
Vince Gill remains the most treasured of the many Oklahomans in the country music mainstream, respected equally by connoisseurs and those who pay little attention to commercial country. This box set reveals just why he is so loved. From pure country and back-porch acoustic to roadhouse rock and jazz-flavored ballads, this is the portrait of an artist in his prime.

**Garth Brooks, *No Fences***

No matter how many millions of records Garth Brooks sold after this landmark second album, it remains his best work and the most direct example of how he seamlessly blended genres and styles throughout his career without missing a beat. From hard country to power ballads that became his stock-in-trade, *No Fences* is a testament to his vision—to become country music's everyman superstar.

**Reba McEntire, *#1's***

Before she was a star of stage and television, Reba McEntire was the most successful female artist in country music history. These thirty-five songs originally recorded between 1982 and 2005 reflect her sense of empowerment for women and showcase her vocal strength and gift for stylistic changes. *#1's* is a fine introduction to her music and recognizable voice.

**Charlie Christian, *Complete Studio Recordings***

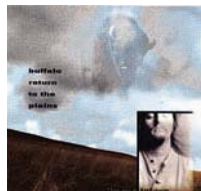
Oklahoma City's Charlie Christian is one of the most important musicians in jazz history. Although he never recorded on his own (these songs are taken from his sessions with Benny Goodman, among others), he was considered one of the genre's seminal voices. A forefather of the electric guitar, his playing influenced everyone from Les Paul to Jimi Hendrix.

**Leon Russell, *Gimme Shelter!***

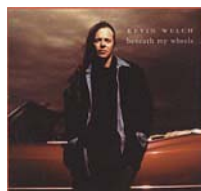
Leon Russell is essentially an album artist, and no retrospective really does him justice. *Gimme Shelter!* is as close as listeners can get to the heart of his music. In his heyday, he was a songwriter of great beauty and a rock-and-roll madman. In many ways a very conventional songwriter ("A Song for You," "This Masquerade"), Russell is best loved for his gritty Okie soul that put the Tulsa sound on the map.

**Flaming Lips, *The Soft Bulletin***

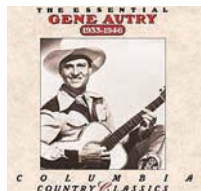
After the weirdly experimental *Zaireeka*, Oklahoma City's Flaming Lips returned with a recording that defined exactly what kind of band they were going to be. *The Soft Bulletin* is their most complete work, honest and vastly different from the many noise records that preceded it. The album's lush and harmonious sound also contains Coyne's most personal and heartfelt lyrics.

**Jimmy LaFave, *Buffalo Return to the Plains***

This is Jimmy LaFave at his very best: unpretentious, emotional, and honest, backed with a gravelly voice. He has equaled many of these songs on his future recordings, but this is the place to start building a LaFave collection. Militantly Okie in all he does, LaFave has at once given listeners a record that glorifies the romance of the road while understanding its limitations.

**Kevin Welch, *Beneath My Wheels***

You can't go wrong with any Kevin Welch disc, but *Beneath My Wheels* is the best definition of this literate folk rocker you will find without hearing him live in concert. At once a sad-eyed romantic and a heartland rocker, Welch defines what is best about country, folk, and Americana music in the twenty-first century. Several other male country singers from Oklahoma are far more famous, but none is better.

**Gene Autry, *The Essential Gene Autry***

Opinions on Gene Autry's singing voice are all over the map, but there's no doubt he had the presence, style, and charm that led the way for everyone who came after, from singing cowboys like Roy Rogers to modern country cowboys like George Strait. From "Back in the Saddle Again" to "Tumbling Tumbleweeds," these songs are as well known as any in the pre-rock-and-roll era and are easy to learn on guitar.

**Chet Baker, *Chet Baker Sings***

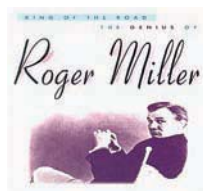
Once trumpeter Chet Baker arrived in California from his native Oklahoma, his career exploded. Soon after, he began singing haunting love songs that showcased his vulnerability more than his technique. Baker's trumpet playing is as seductive as his voice, and he is able to pour his heart into the material, sketching soft, romantic moods and painting himself a brokenhearted innocent.

'No matter how many millions of records Garth Brooks sold after this landmark second album, No Fences remains his best work.'

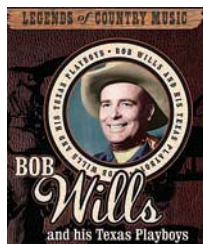
BOOKS



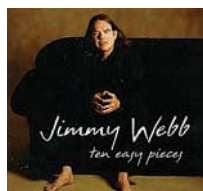
Wanda Jackson, *Vintage Collection Series*
Wanda Jackson arguably is one of the most influential artists in Oklahoma musical history. When she decided to forsake her country leanings for a tougher rock sound, she was pretty much alone in a man's world. Over time, Jackson has influenced just about every girl singer in rock and many of the guys as well. She deserves to be in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.



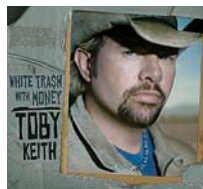
Roger Miller, *King of the Road: The Genius of Roger Miller*
Roger Miller was one of the greatest songwriters in American music, and this collection gathers all of his hits and lesser-known songs that show both his wit and sensitivity. Miller was a songwriter's songwriter and a fine vocal stylist, closer in delivery to Bing Crosby than Hank Williams. For more on the legend, visit his namesake museum in Erick.



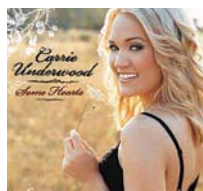
Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys, *Legends of Country Music*
Because of his association with Cain's Ballroom, Texas native Bob Wills is forever linked with Oklahoma music history. While he had a huge impact on country music, Wills always considered himself a big-band jazz musician. These tracks, with his band the Texas Playboys, showcase his signature western swing sound that blended blues, jazz, country, and pop.



Jimmy Webb, *Ten Easy Pieces*
The songs on *Ten Easy Pieces* made Elk City native Jimmy Webb a superstar songwriter before his twenty-second birthday. On this album, Webb reclaimed songs like "By the Time I Get to Phoenix," "MacArthur Park," "Wichita Lineman," and "Galveston" and replaced the nostalgia of the hit versions with a singular passion and sincerity. These days, he plays them in shows the world over.



Toby Keith, *White Trash With Money*
This plainspoken Norman resident remains a true honky-tonk hero and friend of working Americans who just want to have a little fun on Friday night. His celebrity may overshadow the fact that he is a talented country singer with a rich delivery and workmanlike songs about everyday folks. *White Trash With Money* is a winning collection for newcomers.

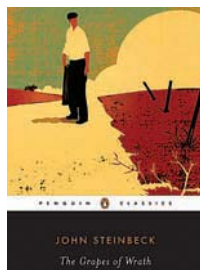


Carrie Underwood, *Some Hearts*
Carrie Underwood, Oklahoma's cute country crooner from Checotah, moved up the ladder from idol to Grammy winner with *Some Hearts*, her first post-*American Idol* album. *Some Hearts* fuses gospel grace with rock and roll, and listeners must like what they hear. The album won Underwood two Grammys and was number one on Billboard's all-genre chart for 2006.

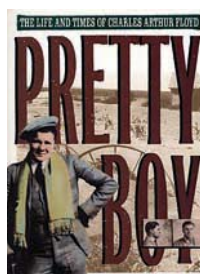


The Worst Hard Time
by Timothy Egan

This is a history of the Dust Bowl we never read about growing up in Oklahoma. It's about what really caused this American disaster and what happened to those who didn't get out of the Great Plains between 1931 and 1938. Egan's tales are chilling and less familiar than the stories of those who staggered out of the Dust Bowl down Route 66 onward to California.



The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck
As controversial as any book written in the wake of the Dust Bowl, John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* takes us on a journey with Oklahoma's Joad family, posing fundamental questions about social justice, land stewardship, the role of government, and the foundations of American capitalism. It remains one of the greatest pieces of American literature and continues to define, however distortedly, the image of Oklahoma.



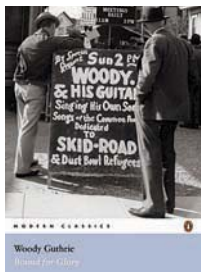
Pretty Boy: The Life and Times of Charles Arthur Floyd by Michael Wallis

The name still conjures images of a Depression-era Public Enemy Number One with a side-parted coif and bulldog-tough face. Michael Wallis weaves the true-crime tale of the infamous bank robber around the backdrop of the outlaw culture of the time, retelling regional history in the lively, engaging style he's built his reputation on.

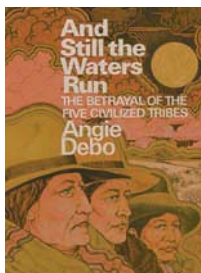
TOM MOSENFELDER/GETTY IMAGES



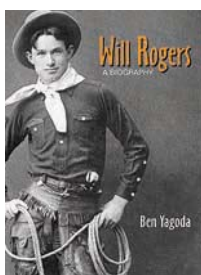
Before he officially retired from show business in 2001, Garth Brooks earned a reputation as one of the best live performers in the music industry.



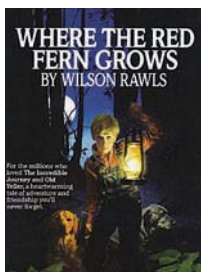
Bound for Glory by Woody Guthrie
This is the original road novel in the form of an autobiography. Mark Twain may have invented the footloose American hero, but Guthrie lived it. These are Guthrie's thoughts and observations presented in a homespun, staccato style that mirrored his restless free spirit. The writing is fast and furious with Guthrie's finger on the pulse of a country fighting for its life.



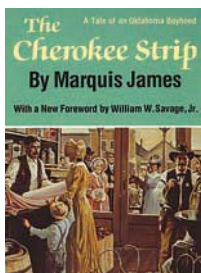
And Still the Waters Run by Angie Debo
Angie Debo, now recognized as one of the finest historians of Native Americans, was inducted into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame in 1993, five years after her death, for her outstanding work. *And Still the Waters Run*, her study of the machinations of whites to defraud Native Americans and the theft of Indian property, is still in print six decades later.



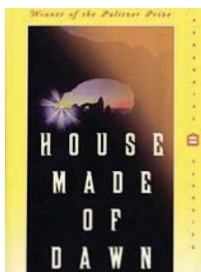
Will Rogers by Ben Yagoda
Of the many biographies written about our most famous son, Ben Yagoda's is the most complete and esteemed. Yagoda sharply details Rogers' life without sugarcoating the difficult aspects of his personality, attesting that the most popular humorist of the time had a "dual consciousness." *Kirkus Reviews* called the book "an utterly thorough taking apart of the unique Rogers persona."



Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls
Wilson Rawls lived his childhood much like his character Billy Colman, roaming the Ozarks of northeastern Oklahoma with his beloved dog. One of the best children's books of all time, this classic story follows Billy and his coonhound pups as they romp around the Ozarks, where Billy learns valuable lessons about loyalty and friendship when victory turns to tragedy.



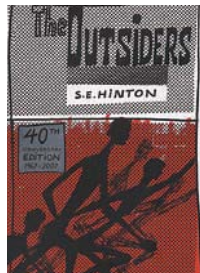
The Cherokee Strip by Marquis James
Rather late in his life, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Marquis James wrote this autobiographical account of his childhood and young adult years growing up in Enid in Oklahoma Territory. Relating his life story in a relaxed tone and with many anecdotes and dialogue, James' impressions are indicative of what life was like for any boy growing up in the region.



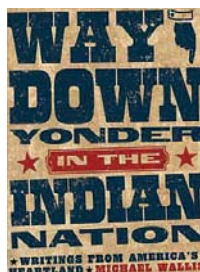
House Made of Dawn by N. Scott Momaday
The Pulitzer Prize-winning *House Made of Dawn* by N. Scott Momaday has been required reading in Native American studies classes nationwide, but it should be read by every Oklahoman as well. Momaday tells the story of a young Native American who journeys from the rural life of his ancestors to the tough urban environment of an American city.



S.E. Hinton began writing her first novel, *The Outsiders*, at age fifteen. References to the classic 1967 novel and its characters continue to appear in popular culture, recently making their way into television shows *My Name Is Earl* and *Lost*.



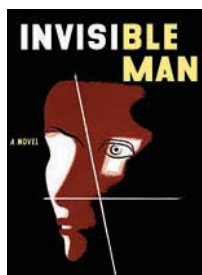
The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton
It could be argued that S.E. Hinton's 1967 Tulsa-set masterpiece, *The Outsiders*, is the most influential novel about American teenage life ever published. The story of an ongoing fight between the poor-kid Greasers and well-to-do Socs points out the essence of teenaged turf battles that define adolescence. The book launched Hinton's career as one of America's most beloved writers of young-adult fiction.



Way Down Yonder in the Indian Nation by Michael Wallis
Readers would be hard-pressed to find a prose master with more substance than Michael Wallis. This thoroughly researched compilation of sixteen essays and short stories on subjects as varied as art deco architecture in Tulsa and the 101 Ranch offer a unique perspective of the people and places that comprise Oklahoma.

ED LALLOTTIME & LIFE PICTURES/GETTY IMAGES

MOVIES



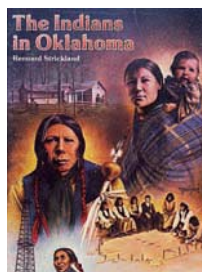
Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison
Oklahoma City native Ralph Ellison captured the attention of the literary world in 1952 when this groundbreaking novel told truths that few, even inside the black community, were willing to address. While *Invisible Man* is a book about race in America, Ellison's first novel transcends such a narrow definition. It's also a book about our country trying to find an identity in the early postwar years.



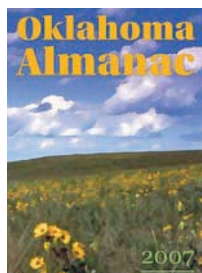
Historical Atlas of Oklahoma by Danney Goble and Charles Goins
The perfect coffee-table book, conversation piece, and historical text, this fourth edition is in a class of its own. First published in 1956, the latest version breaks ranks and goes deeper into the history and geography of Oklahoma and how the people and land are inextricably tied. Amateur cartographers will love the 170 new color maps.



Oklahoma Place Names by George H. Shirk
In this successor to geologist Charles N. Gould's 1933 book of the same name, George H. Shirk examines the legend, lore, and facts behind the state's place names. In an easy-to-read format, Shirk lists each entry alphabetically with a brief history of the name's origins. Also included are maps that trace the state's evolution from the territories to the present day.

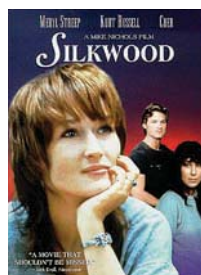


The Indians in Oklahoma by Rennard Strickland
The sixty-seven Indian nations that live in Oklahoma are as diverse as the other nonnative people who call the state home. Rennard Strickland's 1980 work analyzes the tribes, their people, how they came to settle in Oklahoma, and how Oklahoma's history and future was and continues to be shaped by their presence.

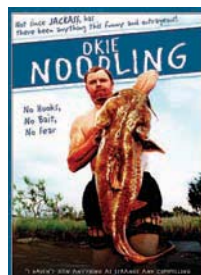


Oklahoma Almanac
Around since 1907 and published biennially by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, the *Oklahoma Almanac*—formerly known as the *Directory of Oklahoma*—is a comprehensive go-to source for Oklahoma facts and figures. Need to know the state fish or the number of manufacturers in Custer County? How about lists of Oklahoma's sports stars or the District Thirty-nine state senator? It's all here.

'The writing of Bound for Glory is fast and furious with Woody Guthrie's finger on the pulse of a country fighting for its life.'



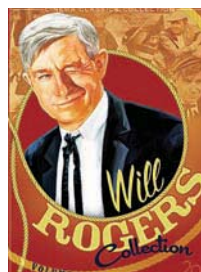
Silkwood (1983)
Chronicling the harrowing account of union activist Karen Silkwood, who turned whistleblower after she was contaminated at the Kerr-McGee plutonium plant where she worked in Crescent, *Silkwood* became an award-winning film out of the gate. Meryl Streep, Cher, and director Mike Nichols were nominated for Oscars for this tragic slice of Oklahoma history.



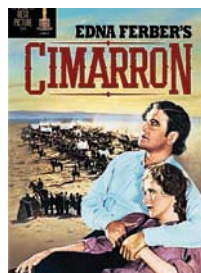
Okie Noodling (2001)
According to Oklahoma state law, title 29, noodling is a method of fishing by "hand only." Use of hooks, bait, rods, or reels is not allowed. With filmmaker Bradley Beesley's keen eye, we see and hear the reasons for this passion from the folks who live and breathe the sport. Full of self-deprecating humor, the movie is something to behold, even if the idea leaves you cold.



Tulsa (1949)
In this film set in the early 1920s, cattle ranchers and the nouveau riche of oil's spoils battle it out for land and power in Tulsa. In this classic tale of rags to riches to rags, the revenge and obsession-fueled Cherokee Lansing, played by Susan Hayward, fights her own demons brought on by the power and greed that the newfound cash cow brings her family.



Will Rogers Collection, Volume 1 (1935)
Will Rogers was the biggest star in Hollywood when he died in 1935. These films from the latter half of his career—including *Doubting Thomas* and *Life Begins at Forty*—all have their moments but never will be remembered among the great screwball comedies of the time. Until a collection gives us *Judge Priest* and *The Ropin' Fool*, this is the best we'll get.



Cimarron (1931)
Deemed Best Picture at the 1931 Oscars and adapted from Edna Ferber's novel, *Cimarron* is the story of one couple's struggle and success in early Oklahoma against the backdrop of land runs and poor-to-rich oil men. Most noteworthy is Irene Dunne's portrayal of the independent Sabra Cravat and the respectful depiction of Native Americans throughout the film.



Oklahoma! (1955)
This 1955 film adaptation of Rodgers and Hammerstein's groundbreaking 1943 musical followed the stage version very closely. *Oklahoma!* was their first collaboration, and the duo personally oversaw production themselves to prevent the studio from making changes then typical of stage-to-film musical adaptations. It paid off: *Oklahoma!* won the Academy Award in 1956 for best score.



The Oklahoma Kid's star power comes from James Cagney's classic performance as vengeance-seeking outlaw Jim Kincaid, who finds a formidable foe in the movie's villain, Whip McCord, played by Humphrey Bogart.

'Campy but entertaining, The Oklahoma Kid depicts the difficult transformation from ruling by gun to ruling by law.'



Fearless Freaks (2005)

Bradley Beesley had the good fortune of once living in the same neighborhood as Flaming Lips leader Wayne Coyne, who quickly enlisted his buddy to document the Lips' many concerts and assorted escapades. Showcasing everything from the early days when the Lips were a noise band to their maturation as one of America's most progressive rock-and-roll entities, the movie is great theater and great history.



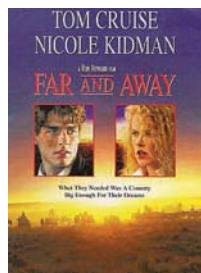
The Oklahoma Kid (1939)

No movie western is complete without murder, whiskey, and shootouts, and *The Oklahoma Kid* has plenty of them. Add some chaos during the land rushes of the late 1800s, and this James Cagney and Humphrey Bogart flick provides historical relevance as well. Campy but entertaining, *The Oklahoma Kid* depicts the difficult transformation from ruling by gun to ruling by law.



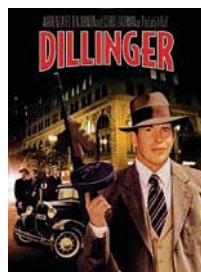
Rumble Fish (1983)

The Outsiders established S.E. Hinton's renown in the literary world, and the film adaptations of *Rumble Fish* and *The Outsiders*—with screenplays written by Hinton and directed by Francis Ford Coppola—made a cast of relative unknowns into Hollywood staples. Diane Lane, Matt Dillon, and Nicolas Cage all created memorable characters in this Tulsa tale of the haves versus the have-nots.



Far and Away (1992)

Duncan native Ron Howard directed this film about the struggle for the American dream. Joseph Donnelly and Shannon Christie, played by then-Hollywood megacouple Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman, flee their native Ireland in search of land and independence. One part love story and one part westward expansion, the film palpably denotes the sense of possibility inherent in the Oklahoma Land Run of 1893.



Dillinger (1973)

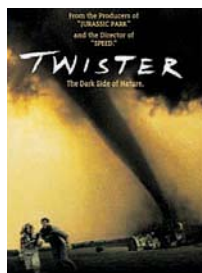
Bias aside, if all films were shot in Oklahoma, they might be as cool as this one. Bank robber John Dillinger reached larger-than-life status after being gunned down by FBI agents outside a Chicago movie theater in 1934. With location shoots across Oklahoma, this biopic featuring Warren Oates as Dillinger has the outlaw bumping elbows with characters like Pretty Boy Floyd.

Twister (1996)

Tornadoes, ominous skies, and storm chasers. Sounds like a typical Oklahoma spring, but throw in a flying cow, and everyone knows you're talking about *Twister*. In *Twister*, set and for the most part filmed in Oklahoma, our rural landscape and flying Holsteins forever became a part of Oklahoma's big-budget Hollywood identity. The romance between the two main characters gives the film interesting subtext.

Where the Heart Is (2000)

Tulsa native and Durant resident Billie Letts knows about the heart. Hers has always remained close to her Oklahoma roots. Letts' bestselling novel, *Where the Heart Is*, was adapted for the big screen in 2000 and featured a stellar cast, including Natalie Portman as abandoned new mother Novalee Nation, who gives birth at Wal-Mart, and Ashley Judd as her best friend.



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14. Tres Sueños Vineyards & Winery, *Luther*
15. Wildwind Vineyards & Winery, *Tecumseh*
16. The Wine Village, *Stroud*
17. Woodland Park Vineyards & Winery, *Stillwater*

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Outside

"If I were a bird, I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns."—George Eliot

Secret Scenic

Fork Less Traveled

Barren Fork or Baron Fork, it's a site for fall foliage.

DON'T BE FOOLED. The Barren—also known as Baron—Fork Creek is more nobility than wasteland. Approximately three miles southeast of Tahlequah, this tributary joins the Illinois River amid acres of forest, feeding travelers' desires for adventure.

While some seek out the river only in the summer, Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission director Ed Fite explains why boating on the Barren Fork is an all-season activity.

"Out canoeing, you will not see a more tranquil or beautiful place to be on a snow-covered day, particularly if you stay dry."

Smallmouth bass fishing is a popular reason to get out on the water, and the area is home to more than seventy species of fish.

While the Illinois and Barren Fork are both see-to-the-bottom clear, the latter is still

largely a secret, making wildlife more likely to venture to the water. Boaters have spotted elk and deer swimming in the area.

For locals, the landscape can sometimes fade into the background, but the Barren Fork's growing reputation as a vacation spot occasionally reminds them of its grandeur. The region's trees welcome November in full regalia, turning campgrounds into halls decked with brilliant reds and oranges.

District conservationist Andy Inman recently was caught off guard by a visiting Tulsan's expressions of admiration. "Sometimes you forget how pretty it is," Inman says.

—CRISTI LAQUER

Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission, (918) 456-3251 or oklahomascenicrivers.com.

THRILLER IN THE MIST

Not even a thick blanket of mist can obscure the Barren Fork Creek's autumnal show. Because of 2007's abundant rainfall, this year's fall foliage is expected to be even more vivid in color than usual.



Field Guide

All About Trout

'Tis the season for a cold-water favorite.



O KLAHOMA IS ONE of the fishiest states in the nation, renowned for its top-notch warm-water fishing opportunities. What isn't as well known—even though word is quickly getting out—is our outstanding **trout fishing**. Oklahoma

is much more than big tepid lakes and warm, lazy rivers. There are a number of wintertime trout fishing destinations across the state, in addition to two year-round trout fisheries on the **Lower Illinois** and **Lower Mountain Fork** rivers. The season kicks off November 1, so it's a good time to get the poles out of the garage. —Chad Love

Fish Story: Want to make sure the trout bite? Keep these seven things in mind.

BASS PRO SHOPS



Baited Breath

Popular trout fishing baits include salmon eggs, worms, crickets, corn, Powerbait, dough bait, and marshmallows. If you can keep it on a hook, chances are a trout will try to eat it. Use four- to six-pound test line and 8 to 14 size hooks fished along the bottom.



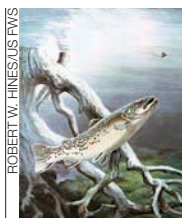
High Flying

Fly-fishing success is possible with basic tackle. A five- or six-weight rod, inexpensive reels loaded with floating and sinking lines, 4 or 6x tippets, a few wet and dry flies, and you're in business. Fly-casting lessons may save a lot of flailing and cursing.



Spinning On

Don't want to mess with fly-fishing? Light-action spinning rods and a spinning reel with four- or six-pound test line is a perfect choice for spinners, spoons, and jigs. Mepps, Panther Martin, and Worden's rooster tails are three of the best-known in-line spinners.



The Rush

Fishing moving water can be frustrating. Fish seek breaks in the current. Learn to read the water for these areas. Large rocks, eddies, pools, undercut banks, inside bends—any spot fish can lie in wait and let food come to them are good bets.



Hook 'Em

Trout are delicate fish, so consider using barbless hooks on Oklahoma's year-round trout fishing areas (they're required in some zones) or mashing down the barbs on barbed hooks. This will dramatically increase the trout's chances of survival.



Fall Back

Trout season begins November 1 and runs through March. The exceptions? Oklahoma's year-round tailrace fisheries below the dams at Tenkiller and Broken Bow reservoirs, where water is cold enough to sustain trout year-round.



License to Fish

All state anglers must purchase a trout license prior to fishing (\$10 for adults, \$5 for seventeen years old and younger). The license helps fund the state's stocking program, and judging by the thousands of Oklahoma anglers who buy one every year, it's a bargain.

Uncommon Grounds

Bud Dolan, head groundskeeper for the capitol, is an expert on state growth.

STATELY AND GREEN. The head groundskeeper for State Capitol Park and the Governor's Mansion, **Bud Dolan** manages and supervises landscape activities on the 150 acres that comprise both properties. Dolan and his wife Debra live south of McLoud. At home, they do all the landscaping themselves, with a helping hand from Bud's dad, Chris Dolan. Here, Bud Dolan talks about how the capitol and mansion's gardens grow.

—Steffie Corcoran

STATE CAPITOL PARK BY THE NUMBERS

Annually, more than 70,000 people visit State Capitol Park. There are 150 acres in State Capitol Park, the Governor's Mansion, and Lincoln Renaissance, including ninety-two acres of turf in the park to mow, edge, trim, and clean with a power blower. It takes about five or six days to complete one cycle. There are 2,350 trees on inventory. In State Capitol Park, 31,500 pansies bloom in the ornamental beds in the spring. Also, this spring at the Governor's Mansion, more than 30,000 tulip, hyacinths, daffodils, pansies, violas, and crocuses will be in bloom.—**BUD DOLAN**



What's your favorite season at the capitol and mansion?

Autumn. I can almost feel the very moment summer gives way to fall. It's good to put the heat of summer behind and look forward to the fall color. The trees and shrubs become ablaze with color. The perennials and annuals mature and are usually in full display. I plan for winter tasks and early-spring planting. We oversee the lawns and plant flowering bulbs and annuals. The air is cool, and it is easy to remain comfortable outdoors. Fall just feels good.

What do you enjoy looking at on the grounds?

The tulips that grow at the Governor's Mansion in spring are dazzling. We plant thousands and thousands each year, and the short time gazing at the color in early spring is the reward. I love looking at the trees lining Lincoln Boulevard at the north entrance of State Capitol Park. They frame the capitol and dome and create a grand view.

I love looking at the lush green fescue turf on the front lawn of the capitol.

It is so rich and dark green, and after it is perfectly cut, it gives the capitol a picture-perfect look.



What plants and flowers say Oklahoma to you?

In State Capitol Park, ornamental grasses are often used with the Native American sculptures in the landscape. For example, bluestem is found at the west entrance to State Capitol Park as a backdrop to the sculpture *Where the Buffalo Roam*. Oklahoma's state tree, the eastern redbud, also comes to mind. The redbuds bloom in profusion in State Capitol Park and the Governor's Mansion in the springtime. I also think of the abundant wildflowers that grow in Oklahoma. The ones between our home and the back roads to Shawnee put on quite a show right around Easter.



What's your irrigation use at the capitol?

As much as twelve million gallons in years with extended drought, but not anywhere near that this year. The rains

came too often this year; we may have used less than three million gallons in 2007.



Are you planning anything special in conjunction with the Centennial?

We will light one hundred Christmas trees; this tree planting project was done in partnership with the Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation. The Christmas trees will create a spectacular display at night during the holidays and will add to the tree stand in State Capitol Park year-round.

What projects are points of pride?

I'm pleased that I am responsible for the appearance of State Capitol Park and the Governor's Mansion landscape and that the curb appeal is second to none. Weather events happen. There's always an issue, but the people I work with value integrity, and we work together to make it beautiful again for the public.

'I love looking at the trees lining Lincoln Boulevard at the north entrance of State Capitol Park.'

—Bud Dolan



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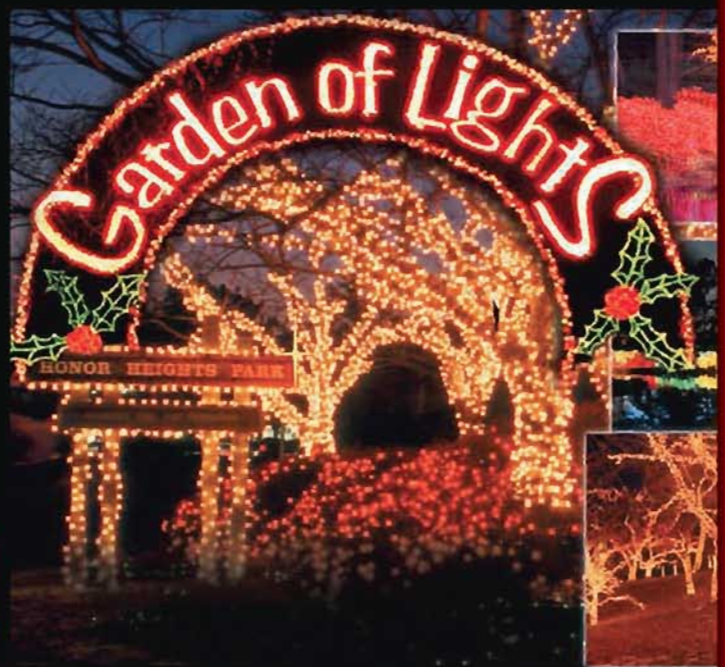


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Get This!

Green Scene

There's nothing like the smell of fresh greenery to get the holiday spirit flowing. **Pleasant Valley Farms** in Sand Springs invites visitors to enjoy hot cocoa after cutting their trees, which will be ready for the ax beginning on November 23. Wreaths and Christmas tree stands will be sold as well. **\$8 to \$80.** (918) 248-5647.

Adventure

Nearest and Dearest

Even pacifists can enjoy deer season with this weapon-free guide.

THE SEASON IS right. The air is crisp. And the herd's numbers are up. Sounds like a good time to go deer hunting. But there is a catch. On this trip, check your gun at the deer stand and take aim with your binoculars. The truth is, with Oklahoma's proliferation of **deer** and wide range of natural settings, you might not even need binoculars.

That's especially true at **Greenleaf State Park** near Braggs, where the rolling country and thick stands of blackjack oak create an ideal place for nature lovers and deer to coexist.

"It's absolutely perfect. The deer are grazing everywhere. They'll come right up to you," says Diane Rutland, who handles sales and marketing at the park.

While Greenleaf stands out with its attention to deer, there are plenty of other viewing places in

Oklahoma, particularly with the deer population now estimated at more than 500,000.

"White-tailed deer can be found in all seventy-seven counties but remain more common in the main part of the state outside the Panhandle," says Mark Howery, a wildlife diversity biologist with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. Oklahoma, ranking among the top inland states in the country in wildlife diversity, also remains a prime viewing spot for elk and bison.

Deer watching is said to be best in eastern Oklahoma in the area that encompasses Tahlequah, Muskogee, Sallisaw, and Poteau.

However, deer also are at home in winter wheat country around Alva and the **Great Salt Plains State Park** in the north and the **Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge** in south-central Oklahoma.

—Tom Lindley

W.J. BERG/US FWS



To protect it from predators, mother deer lick most of the scent from their fawns before venturing away for food.

STEVE HILLEBRAND/US FWS

A Deer-Watching Primer

Deer generally are on the move the first two hours after sunrise and the last two hours before sunset. Their instincts have told them to stay out of the spotlight during hunting season, which means you might see them less frequently than in the spring or summer.

A prime deer-watching location is the edge of the forest where the grasslands turn into a thicket of trees, an area that allows deer to feed while offering quick shelter. They also forage in large numbers in alfalfa fields.

Steve Evans, a naturalist at Greenleaf State Park, cautions deer watchers not to attempt to rescue a fawn they might run across in the woods. A fawn's instinct is to be still if it senses a predator, even if its mother is in hiding. "Humans come along and pick up the fawn, thinking it's been abandoned," Evans says. "Then they take it home or bring it to our shelter, and by then it's too late to get it back to its mother."

This time of year, deer are out in great numbers, so you have to be careful if you see one while driving because if you get distracted by it, you might accidentally run into its companion.



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Patty Plummer transfers her photographs of rural Oklahoma scenes, shown here, to tiles which will be on display at the Metcalfe Museum in Durham through November 30.



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Jewels of the Tile

A photographer new to Oklahoma is learning to appreciate its beauty—and to reproduce it.

WHAT BETTER WAY to discover the land than to grab friends and a camera, jump in the car, and hit the road? That's what photographer **Patty Plummer** did in 2006 and 2007 on treks through western Oklahoma and Osage County. What developed was a lasting love of Oklahoma and the beginnings of an exhibit, **Oklahoma on My Mind**.

In June 2004, Plummer, a Missouri native, moved to her home in Skiatook, where she owns and operates Prairie's Edge Art Gallery and photographs as she pleases.

"Sometimes I have a plan, but you can't plan everything," Plummer says. "I photograph what I enjoy, what I want to remember, and what I think others will enjoy."

For example, one of her chosen scenes

from the exhibit, *Morning Glory*, is an eerie display of the sunrise seen through bare, bending trees and mist. The trees appear to twist toward the sun, creating sharp turns and harsh lines within warm oranges and reds and cool purples, presenting a scene that both calms and stimulates the eye at the same time.

Oklahoma on My Mind includes twenty-three photograph-emulsified tiles of landscapes, landmarks, and livestock from western Oklahoma. Plummer's favorites are

those from her neck of the woods.

"Rural Osage County in the fall? You can't beat that," she says. —Rachel Wright

Oklahoma on My Mind is on display at the Metcalfe Museum through November 30. Plummer's tiles are available for purchase at the museum. Metcalfe Museum, south of State Highway 33 between Roll and Durham. (580) 655-4467 or metcalfemuseum.org. Patty Plummer, (918) 384-9104 or journeyphotography.com.

How Did She Do That? A MIXED-MEDIA PROJECT PRIMER

Patty Plummer transfers her photos to tiles using the Polaroid emulsion lift process. Here's how: Plummer exposes her images onto

Polaroid Peel Apart film, develops them, and lets them dry overnight. The next day, she immerses them in hot water, which causes the top

layer of emulsion to lift from the paper. She then adheres that layer to her chosen medium, in this case, ceramic tiles. Presto!

PATTY PLUMMER

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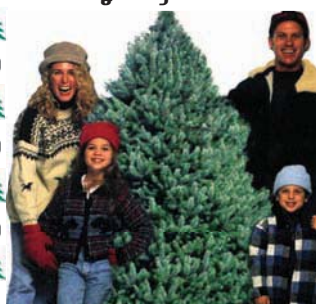
Nothing Says
Christmas...

like a tree from Coit's!

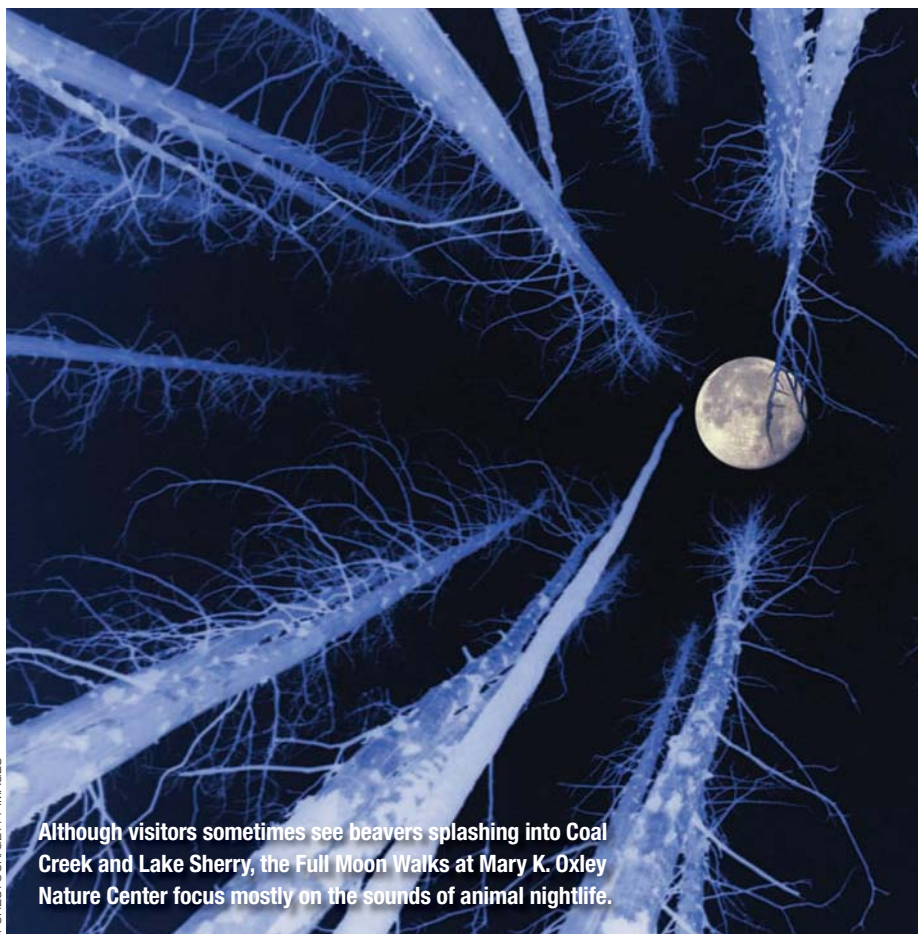
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Active



PURESTOCK/GETTY IMAGES

Although visitors sometimes see beavers splashing into Coal Creek and Lake Sherry, the Full Moon Walks at Mary K. Oxley Nature Center focus mostly on the sounds of animal nightlife.

Moonstr

Now that the nights are longer, moonlight feels right for walking.

MOONLIGHT WALKS ARE all about the organic: Waiting as the body adapts and perception heightens, forcing us to rely on instinct, intuition, and all of the senses. The **Full Moon Walks** at the **Mary K. Oxley Nature Center** in Tulsa are the perfect fitness fix, just as good for the body as for mind and soul.

At 7 p.m., participants take off from the Oxley Nature Center, walking a mile or so along Oxley's eleven miles of trails that crisscross the 800-plus-acre park.

"People are amazed that we don't use flashlights," says staff naturalist Julie Mon-

not. Throughout the walk, guides discuss how animals use their senses of sight, smell, and hearing to navigate the night.

It takes about forty-five minutes for eyes to completely dilate and adjust to the darkness, Monnot says, but meanwhile, there are other things to do. "Sometimes," says Monnot, "We just listen."

—Vallery Brown

The Full Moon Walks at the Mary K. Oxley Nature Center are November 20 and December 20 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Registration must be made in advance and is \$2 for the general public and free to Friends of Oxley members. (918) 669-6644 or oxleynaturecenter.org.



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Lake Tenkiller

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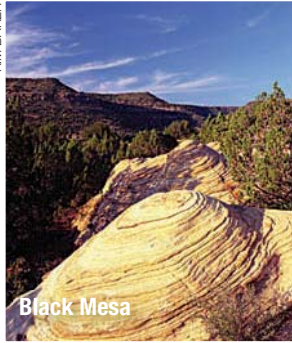
Harper County

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Woodward County

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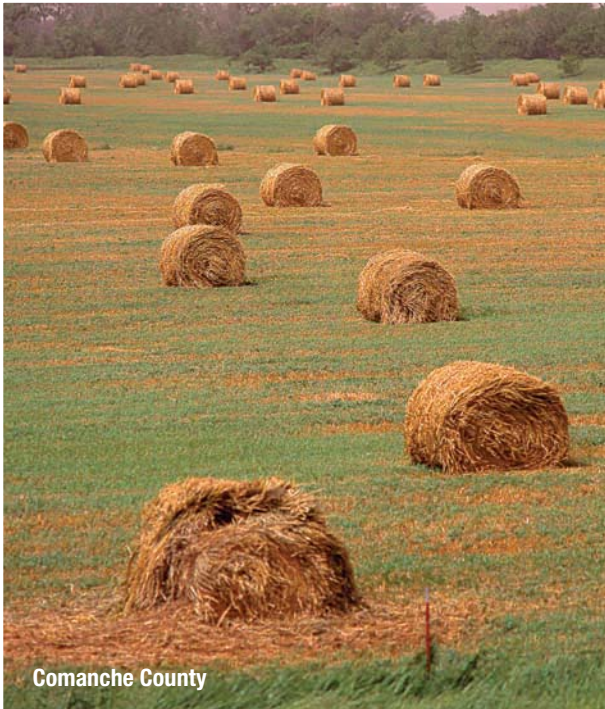
Black Mesa

EVAN TAYLOR



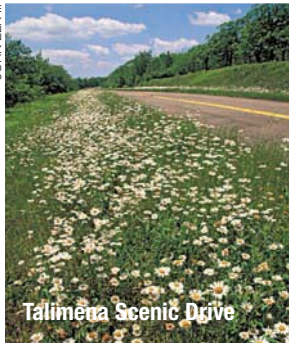
Windmills near Weatherford

R.E. LINDSEY



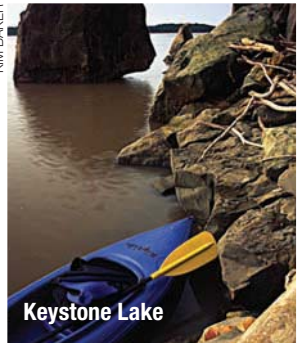
Comanche County

JOHN ELK III



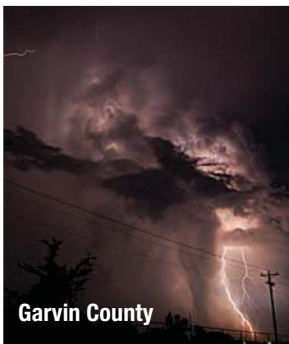
Talimena Scenic Drive

KIM BAKER



Keystone Lake

MARK W. NAULT



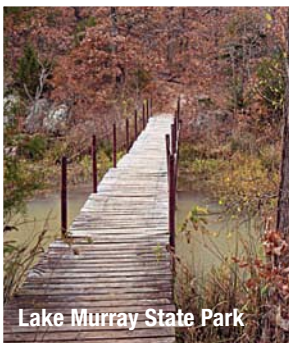
Garvin County

R.E. LINDSEY



Price Falls

R.E. LINDSEY



Lake Murray State Park

SUNSET AT QUANAH PARKER LAKE

Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge



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Ouachita National Forest

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MOUNTAIN FORK RIVER

Beavers Bend State Park



RED MORNING LIGHT

Ouachita National Forest



TREASURE LAKE

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FALLING WATER

Natural Falls State Park

SHANE BROWN



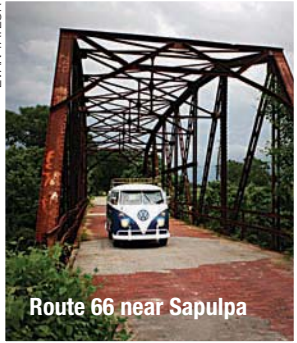
Johnston County

CHAD LOVE



Harper County

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Route 66 near Sapulpa

MARK W. NAULT



Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge

KIM BAKER



Lower Illinois River

R.E. LINDSEY



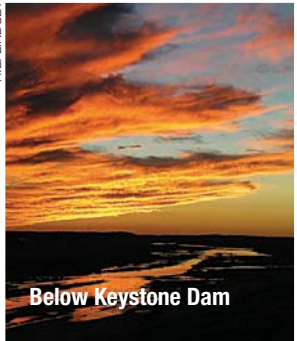
Beavers Bend State Park

KIM BAKER



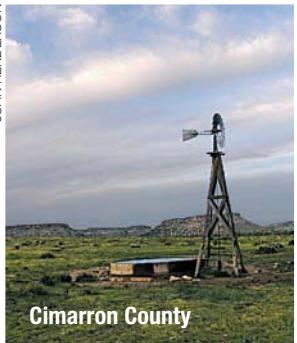
Lower Illinois River

R.E. LINDSEY



Below Keystone Dam

JOAN HENDERSON



Cimarron County

MARK W. NAULT



MARK W. NAULT

STORM APPROACHING

North of Piedmont



EARLY SPRING

Near Seiling

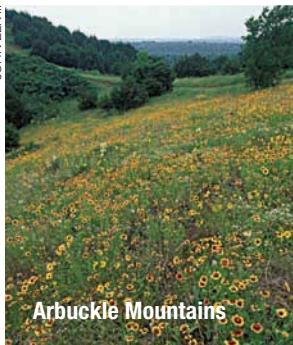


YOUSEF KHANFAR



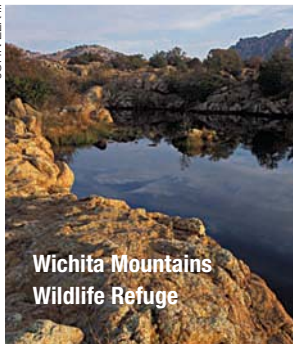
Near Quartz Mountain

JOHN ELK III



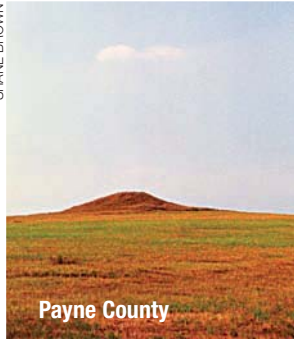
Arbuckle Mountains

JOHN ELK III



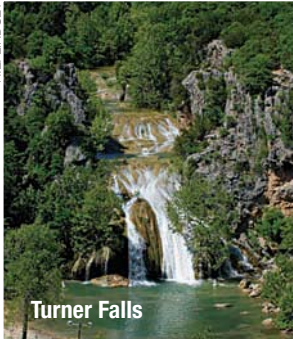
Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge

SHANE BROWN



Payne County

R.E. LINDSEY



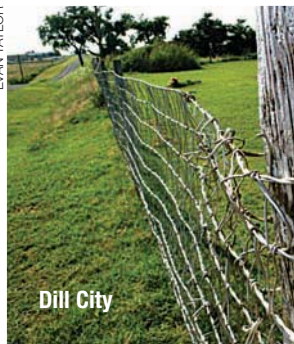
Turner Falls

R.E. LINDSEY



Talimena Scenic Drive

EVAN TAYLOR



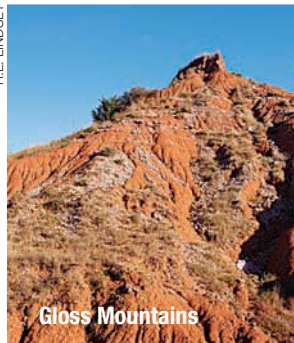
Dill City

KIM BAKER



Tallgrass Prairie Preserve

R.E. LINDSEY



Gloss Mountains

WAVING WHEAT

McClain County

TREE AMID CLOUDS

Near Erick







AUTUMN

Sequoyah State Park

Retired schoolteacher Kathryn Klotsch died in 2006 at the age of 106.



**This year she'll teach 200 Oklahoma children
what it means to have hope and a home.**

Kathryn Klotsch was born in 1899 in Krebs, Oklahoma, and grew up in McAlester. After the death of her husband in 1984, Kathryn moved to Oklahoma City and looked after two sisters and a brother who were living in nursing homes until their deaths.

She kept busy with her church, her friends, and tatting doilies, which she gave away. Many of her former students along with their children and grandchildren kept in touch with Kathryn until her death and treasure the doilies she gave them.

Kathryn invested wisely but lived modestly. In 2001, Kathryn established a trust with Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children "to benefit the children now." She said, "I would rather give it to help a child have a life than live in a country club."

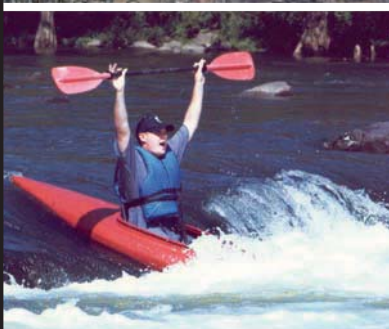
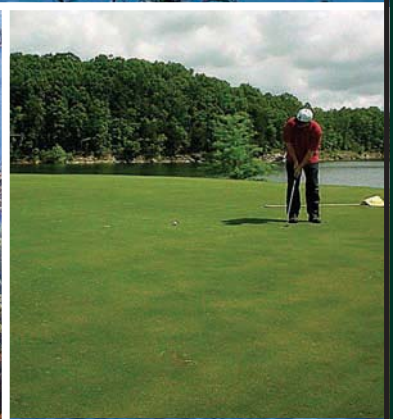
Thanks to Kathryn, more children will have the opportunity to succeed at school and in life. You can make a lasting difference for children now and beyond your lifetime by including OBHC in your will or estate plan. Contact your attorney, financial advisor, or OBHC at (405) 942-3800, ext. 4628.

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COWBOYS WHO DARE THE RIVERS
IN WINNING THE FRONTIER COL-
LIZATION. TOM SEST BORN SOUTH OF
KANSAS IN 1872 TO GOVERNMENT
CATTLE TRAINERS BUT WAS KILLED BY
HOSTILE INDIANS A SHORT DISTANCE
NORTH OF THIS POINT BY CHAMBERS
IN 1878. BORN NORTH WITH A BEAR
FROM TEXAS AND HE WAS KILLED
BY INDIANS ABOUT A MILE
SOUTH EAST CORNER

ERECTED
BY
NATIONAL YOUTH
ADMINISTRATION
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CLINT COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
ROCK CREEK AND MEDFORD
LIONS CLUBS
WITH HISTORICAL MARKERS
PROJECT
1937

Oklahoma is home to approximately 220 miles of the historic Chisholm Trail. The significance of its past continues today as Oklahomans who live and work nearby dedicate their time to preserving its memory.

By Chad Love

Photography by Shane Brown

TRAIL DRIVE

Along Oklahoma's newly minted Chisholm Trail Centennial Corridor, the seeds of our cowboy mythology continue to grow.

THE CHISHOLM TRAIL, that 1,200-mile-long ode to legend, continues to enthrall us some 123 years after the last wild-eyed longhorn was dragged out of a south Texas mesquite thicket and pointed north. Our own stanza in this national epic begins in the swirling eddies and shifting sandbanks of the Red River and terminates some 220 miles due north at a point where Oklahoma melds into Kansas under a lonely arc of prairie sky. Time and human activity have encroached

upon and obliterated much of it, but what remains of the trail speaks to those who care to seek it out.

This explains in a roundabout way why I was being whooshed by oncoming traffic as I leaned on the guardrail of the U.S. Highway 81 bridge that spans the Red River just south of the tiny hamlet of Terral, Oklahoma.

I intended to drive as much of the trail through Oklahoma as possible. Technically, though, this bridge isn't on the Chisholm Trail. The actual spot where most of the herds crossed is about

eight miles downstream at a point called Red River Station, but it's inaccessible and on private land. Still, I wanted to look down upon the Red, if for no other reason than to imagine what it'd be like to ford it on horseback in the middle of a bawling herd of scimitar-horned cattle. I decided I would rather take my chances with the traffic.

Highway 81 at the river bridge is also the official gateway to Oklahoma's Chisholm Trail Centennial Corridor, a Centennial project designed to highlight the trail's route through Oklahoma.

"If you know where you're looking and what you're looking for, you can still see a lot of the actual trail," says Chris Jefferies. Jefferies is one of two state project directors for the Chisholm Trail Centennial Corridor project and is responsible for marking the trail and identifying historical sites from the Red River to the Kansas border. He says someone interested in driving the trail should first pick up a free copy of *Oklahoma's Historic Chisholm Trail Centennial Corridor Guide Map* published by the Oklahoma Centennial Commission.

"There are twenty-three historical sites identified on the map, and pretty much all of them are, if not accessible, then close enough to see via public roads," says Jefferies.

As former director of the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center in Duncan, Jefferies has long been fascinated with the trail's history.

"The Chisholm Trail has always been in the consciousness of people interested in our history," he says. "It waxes and wanes, maybe, but it never really dies. I do think there is a renewed interest in the trail with our Centennial. It was one of the most significant times in our history."

Of course, thanks to Hollywood, most of us



Sheila Moser manages the Comanche Motel in Comanche.



The Courthouse Grill in Waurika, owned by Danny and Denise Bacon, appeals to farmers, ranchers, and townsfolk.

already know the story of the Chisholm Trail. A bunch of cowboys take a bunch of cows somewhere, because that's what cowboys do, and along the way, they fight off a bunch of central casting Indians and bad guys and/or engage in one or more quick-draw gunfights with said villains. A few of them die heroically or stoically or both, and somewhere along the way, a wagon train containing one or more damsels must be saved, because that's in the script, too.

The reality is a bit different, though no less dramatically inclined. More than anything else, the era of the great cattle drives—which spanned an amazingly short period of time in relation to its mind-boggling cultural influence—is a story of simple economics.

Following the Civil War, south Texas had cows, millions of them roaming wild after four years of neglect. The rest of the country wanted those cows. A longhorn worth three dollars in Texas might bring as much as forty

Chisholm: The Trail, the Man, and the Road

U.S. HIGHWAY 81 AND INDIAN TRADER JESSE CHISHOLM ARE FOREVER LINKED BY A DUSTY OLD CATTLE TRAIL.



Beginning in 1867 in south Texas, millions of cattle trailed north through San Antonio and Fort Worth and on to Indian Territory, bound for railhead towns in Kansas. The trail's route through Oklahoma passes through or near Waurika, Duncan, Marlow, Rush Springs, Chickasha, Tuttle, Mustang, Yukon, El Reno, Okarche, Kingfisher, Dover, Hennessey, Waukomis, Enid, and Medford.

JESSE CHISHOLM, a part-Cherokee trader, scout, entrepreneur, and interpreter known for his savoir-faire and ability to broker peace between Indian and

government factions, never actually drove cattle on the trail. However, one of the Tennessee native's many trading posts was located near present-day Lake Overholser, and that accounted for Chisholm—who died near Geary in 1868—being the trail's namesake.

The trail can almost be transposed onto Highway 81 from border to border. That's serendipitous, because 81 is one of the most enjoyable roads in Oklahoma, a well-maintained ribbon that wends its way through any number of uniquely Oklahoma roadside attractions from local farmers' markets to dusty-windowed junk shops.



Simple monuments and markers, like this one in Grant County, are reminders of the trail's presence.

dollars in eastern markets, and that math was easy even for a Texan. The problem was, there were no railheads in Texas to transport those cattle to market. The only way to get a south Texas longhorn from the brush and into a New York steak house was herding it from the back of a horse.

And thus was born the cattle drive. The Chisholm Trail was by no means the first cattle trail, nor was it the only one through Indian Territory, but it was by far the most famous and most widely used, in part because of its relative ease of navigation. From 1867 until 1884, the Chisholm Trail was the conduit for what has been called the greatest migration of domestic animals in human history.

MY PLAN WAS to start where it all began, the Red River Station and the old Fleetwood store, the point where all those millions of longhorns scrambled out of the Red and into Indian Territory. After leaving the Highway 81 bridge, I drove north and turned east at Terral. A few miles out of town, the sun-bleached asphalt two-lane changed

'It was one of the most significant times in our history.'

over to gravel, and a metal sign directed me south. At the end of the road, I stopped the truck, got out, and looked down to where the Red flowed unseen beyond the trees, trying to locate anything resembling a trail. That's when I discovered one overriding modern



truth about the trail: It requires a certain degree of imagination.

Yes, there are places where the depressions and cuts left by millions of hooves are still visible, but for the most part, the passage of time has softened its features to the point where what once was a raw scar is now a natural part of the topography.

Defeated in my hopes of seeing an actual trail, I got in the truck and headed back for 81, but a mile or so northeast of the crossing, I stopped on the side of the road at the site of the old Fleetwood store, a trading post first opened in the 1880s. According to the faded bronze plaque half-hidden by Johnson grass, sometime in the 1880s, Fleetwood moved the store to its present location "because the cattle of the trail drives caused too much commotion for business as usual."



Modern-day cowboys Marty Meyer and his son Payton in their barn near Enid

Like many spots on this cattle-borne path, the Fleetwood store is a quiet, lonely place that leads visitors to introspection. That is not to say there aren't stops on the trail that are a hoot. Just up the road in Duncan, the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center is about as entertaining a museum as I've been in, but the wild, overgrown lonely spots are where you will find the most personal and basic connection with the cowboys of yesteryear.

I walked among the ruins for a few minutes and then headed back to 81 and turned north. I was bound for Duncan and the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center, but first I wanted to stop at Monument Hill, a sweeping vista just east of the town of Addington. From its apex, you get a grand view of the valley below and the first true sense of the trail's scale. Books say this spot was used by drovers as a lookout and landmark for herds coming up the trail. A thirty-foot-tall marker identifies the spot, which is easily visible from 81.

Lightning drove me back to the truck, and I raced the storms north to Duncan, home to another historic trail spot, the old Duncan store, and the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center, a museum dedicated to preserving the trail's history. There I wandered among the museum's western art collection, sat through an entertaining interactive movie in which I was subjected to a prairie thunderstorm complete with rain and lightning, a stampede,

**'There are places on the trail
where the depressions and cuts
left by millions of hooves are
still visible.'**

and the acrid smell of the food made by the film's dubious-looking camp cook. Outside, I marveled at the massive bronze sculpture depicting a trail herd scene.

After leaving the center, I stopped at every Centennial Corridor sign announcing points along the trail. The legendary Marlow Brothers hideout (located in their namesake town), the cowboy shootout site south of Rush Springs, the Washita River crossing east of Chickasha—I stopped at each one and added another piece of the mental jigsaw puzzle. East of Chickasha, I briefly left 81 and turned north on State Highway 92 toward Tuttle and the Silver City site. Just south of Tuttle, the Chisholm trail splits, with one branch going west through El Reno and the main branch heading through Mustang and Yukon before meeting again near Dover at the Red Fork Ranch historic site.

The remnants of Tropical Depression Erin

interrupted the middle portion of my trail drive, but a couple of weeks later, I took up the trail again, this time in the northern third of the state. Up to this point, my exploration had been solitary. The signs and map made it a cinch for even a direction-challenged tourist like myself to navigate the trail, but this time I'd have a guide, the man everyone refers to simply as "Mr. Chisholm Trail." But first some background.

IF YOU DRIVE the trail today, in addition to the Chisholm Trail Centennial Corridor signs, you will encounter literally dozens of different historical markers erected by any number of groups and individuals. It is a 220-mile patchwork quilt of homage: granite markers, faded bronze plaques, stone cairns, shiny metal signs, crumbling concrete obelisks, an old horseshoe welded



Students learn the art of wine making at the Darlington Agriculture Education and Applied Research Center.



Shaun Lockwood at his ranch near Pond Creek

to a T-post, bullet-riddled wooden signs, a beer can on a fence post, you name it. But no matter where you are in Oklahoma, if you are on a public road that is intersected by the ghost of the trail, you will find, hidden somewhere in the Johnson grass and overgrown sunflowers, the mark of Bob Klemme.

'The Chisholm Trail Heritage Center is about as entertaining a museum as I've been in.'

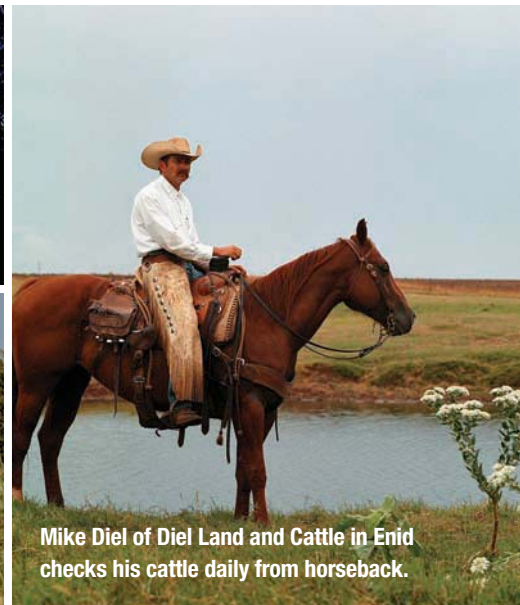
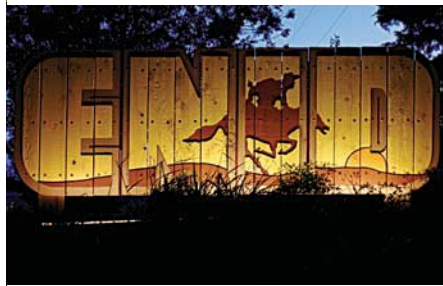
Klemme, like Chris Jefferies, is a coordinator of the Chisholm Trail Centennial Corridor project. And like Jefferies, he has long had a passion for history, so much so that one day he decided it'd be nice for future generations to know exactly where the Chisholm Trail crossed Oklahoma. So he went out and marked it. Every single mile of it. Four hundred concrete posts set at every point of the Chisholm Trail that crosses a section line road from the Red River all the way to the Kansas border. It took Klemme seven years, thousands of hours of sleuthing, and untold miles driven on dusty back roads, but the last post was finally set on September 19, 1997.

I met Klemme in Enid, where he lives, and he agreed to give me a tour of some of the trail's northern points. As we walked to his truck, he began explaining his odyssey.

"I was at the courthouse one day, and I pulled out this old book and laid it on the table. I was thumbing through it, and it turned out to be a copy of the original government survey," Klemme said. "I turned it to the Enid township, and there was a dashed line going up across the map that said 'Abilene cattle trail,' an early name for the Chisholm Trail. I'd been wondering where that cattle trail came through ever since 1939. I never knew I'd been crossing it every time I came to town." Klemme was then a ninth grade



Almost single-handedly, Bob Klemme of Enid marked the Oklahoma portion of the Chisholm Trail.



Mike Diel of Diel Land and Cattle in Enid checks his cattle daily from horseback.



The Chisholm Trail Heritage Center sculpture in Duncan



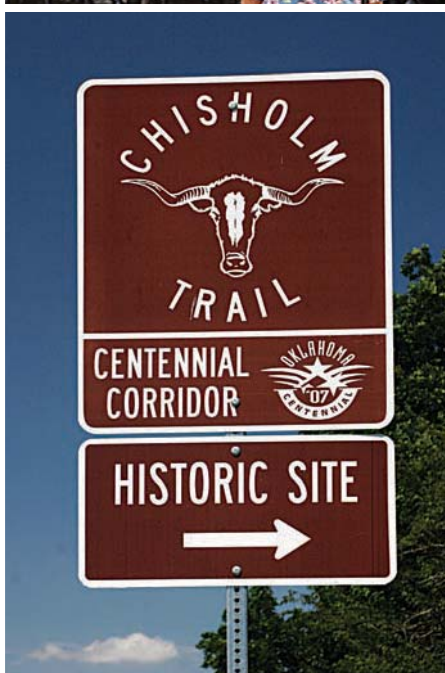
Jim and Jane Hanratty have operated the Chisholm Trail Barber Shop in Comanche since 1998.



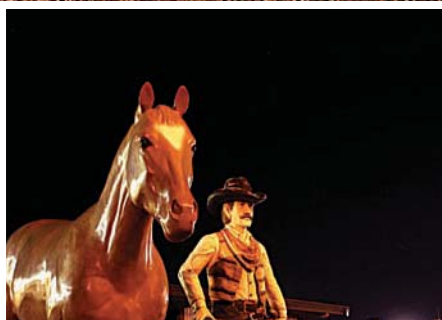
Thanks to Bob Klemme, the Chisholm Trail is identified by approximately 400 concrete markers, like this one in Garfield County, that stretch from the Red River to the Kansas border.



Chris Jefferies is a coordinator of the Chisholm Trail Centennial Corridor project.



Cattle and drovers once crossed into Indian Territory via the Red River south and downstream of Terral.



Paul Gilbreth owns the Flying G Ranch in Marlow.



Artist Harold T. Holden creates western-style bronze sculptures and paintings at his studio near Kremlin.

student in Dewey Bickel's class, and his teacher's passion for the old trail sparked a fire that never went out.

His curiosity piqued, Klemme made notes on topographic maps, compared them to the old surveyor's notes, and looked for trail crossings in his spare time.

"I was surprised by how many I located," he said. "I ended up with all this knowledge, and I thought, 'Well, now what am I going to do with it?' I figured I'd try to mark it some way so kids in the future wouldn't have to look for it."

Klemme promised himself he'd mark the trail every time it crossed a section-line road, and initially, he planned to mark only the portion in the Cherokee Strip. That took

seventy-nine posts, which Klemme made from concrete in his backyard.

"I guess I had too much fun doing that, because I ended up with 104 posts," he said with a laugh. "I decided I needed to get all those dang posts out of the yard."

Klemme continued marking the trail

south until he ran out of posts. Then back he went to the county courthouses, rummaging through old records until he found the survey maps for each county the trail passed through.

"Turned out, I had enough posts to go mark one on the east and main trail

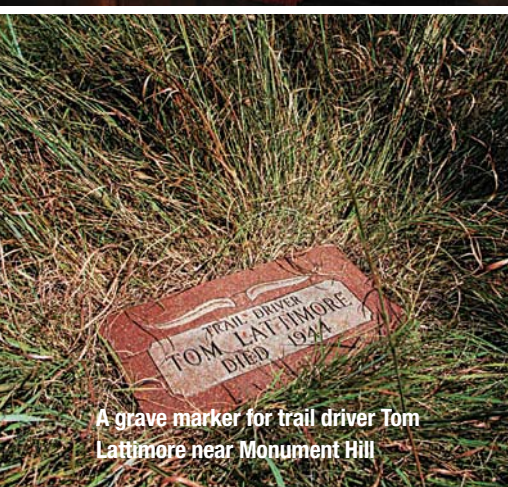
**'I'd been wondering where that
cattle trail came through ever
since 1939.'**



Longhorn cattle roam the pastures of the Flying G Ranch near Marlow.



The Courthouse Grill in Waurika is known for its friendly service.



A grave marker for trail driver Tom Lattimore near Monument Hill

south of the Cimarron, and then I quit," Klemme said.

But by then he had started attracting attention with his project. Eventually the state got involved, a nearby prison agreed to make the concrete posts, and before he knew it, Klemme's posts were inching south one mile at a time.

He explained his routine as we bumped along a lease road toward the Skeleton Ranch site just northeast of Enid.

"If I had to get on someone's property, I'd get permission, but if I could set it next to the bar ditch in the right-of-way, I'd just set it. All you do is get into trouble when you start talking to people. All it does is bog you down," he said, grinning.

Klemme is a walking fount of knowledge, and when he's on the trail, he's in his element, bouncing from one site to the next with enthusiasm.

"There used to be a big 'ol cottonwood tree in there called the Lookout Tree," Klemme said as we approached the Sewell Ranch site south of the tiny town of Jefferson. "The old cowboys took railroad spikes and drove them into that tree so they could climb up and look out for Indians. This was Osage country, and they were fierce."

We drove up to the old WPA markers overlooking a grassy flat on the north side of the Salt Fork River. Klemme got out of the truck and ambled over to the 1937-vintage marker.

"We've got a couple of old cowboy graves right here. Ed Chambers was killed by the Osage. See that lone tree out there on that sand hill? He was down there looking for cattle when the Osage chased him up that hill and killed him. The other one, Tom Best, was killed by Kiowas. He was part of an outfit coming back from Kansas after delivering a herd. Best was gathering their horse herd up north of here by Osage Creek when they shot him out of his saddle."

As we drove back to Enid, I asked Klemme why he put so much effort into marking the trail.

"I didn't do it for any recognition," he said. "I don't care anything for that. I did it because I love history. And I wanted to."

After Klemme dropped me off, I drove north toward Medford. Having seen the entry point of the trail, I wanted to glimpse the spot where it left the state. North of Medford, 81 shrinks to an isolated stretch of shoulderless sunbaked asphalt. The trees thin out, and if I blocked out the disced-over stubble fields and grain elevators, I could imagine this arid northern country looking much as it did back then.

On the Oklahoma-Kansas border, I pulled off to view a silhouette display depicting the "Ghost Riders of the Chisholm Trail."

Across a draw in a little patch of prairie, a few life-size metal longhorns baked in the sun, tended by equally frozen cowboys. The sign read, "So lifelike is the scene, observers are certain they have noticed both dust and sounds coming from the bluff area."

Not today, though. The only sound was the everpresent droning of the cicadas and the whoosh of the occasional passing vehicle. This stretch of the trail is a little lonelier, a



The Trail, Then and Now

VISITORS ARE PART OF THE TRAIL AT A DUNCAN MUSEUM.

More than a museum, the **CHISHOLM TRAIL HERITAGE CENTER** in Duncan is a place for visitors to get swept up in the rush of a cattle drive. The center immerses all age groups in cowboy life, letting guests design their own cattle brands, amble along a 250-foot walkway of the trail, and even practice their calf roping.

Executive director Bill Benson says viewers always become hearers, smellers, and believers at the Experience Theater, which immerses them in much more than a movie. "There's a big stampede that affects all your senses," says Benson. "In that theater, the Chisholm Trail comes alive."

—CRISTI LAQUER

1000 North Chisholm Trail Parkway in Duncan. The museum is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. \$6 for adults, \$4 for youth. (580) 252-6692 or onthechisholmtrail.com.

little more isolated than the southern section. I suspected, judging by the scattered detritus of adolescent exuberance, that local teenagers frequent this area as much as tourists. Still, it is a nice spot, and the solitude lent it an air of authenticity.

I turned south to go home but decided at the last minute to follow Klemme's markers for a few miles. I turned to a dusty section road and zigzagged my way back to Medford, following the trail in reverse.

"People go all over the world to see history," said Klemme, "and all they have to do is look under their feet. It's everywhere."

His words echoed in my head as I barreled down the road, imagining my truck's dust plume was from a herd coming up the trail. Sunflowers and the Johnson grass choked the bar ditches and obscured Klemme's white concrete markers, but they are there, pointing the way for anyone willing to peer a little harder.



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Eat Up

"Seize the moment. Remember all those women on the *Titanic* who waved off the dessert cart." —*Erma Bombeck*

Where to Go for Cinnamon Rolls

Sugar and Spice

They're two of the ingredients that make Silver Dollar Bakery cinnamon rolls irresistible.

IT'S NOT HARD to find a cinnamon roll. People will be lined up for them during Guthrie's Statehood Day activities this November, where they'll slowly move toward a trailer with an inscription that reads, "You know they're fresh when you see 'em made."

Thanks to the Rowlett family of Edmond, fall has been cinnamon-roll-eating season in Oklahoma for more years than proprietor Dan Rowlett cares to count. His family-owned and operated Silver Dollar Bakery is best known as a presence at the State Fair and other outdoor events, including An Affair of the Heart.

Rowlett's mammoth rolls are made start to finish in the mobile bakery with hungry patrons looking on. Not surprisingly, he

won't share the family's recipe. And when asked why Silver Dollar cinnamon rolls are so special, he prefers to let repeat business speak for itself.

"Go to the State Fair and look at my line," he says. "Ask those people—they can give you a better answer than me," Rowlett says sincerely.

There's no denying that the rolls are worth the wait. "There's something special about them," says Rowlett. "I'm not going to question it."

—CRISTI LAQUER

Silver Dollar Bakery's cinnamon rolls will be sold at Guthrie's Statehood Day celebrations on November 15 and 16. (405) 818-7636 or silverdollarbakery.com.

THAT'S HOW THEY ROLL

Covered in pecans and icing or served plain, Silver Dollar Bakery makes a mean cinnamon roll, but their culinary prowess doesn't stop there. Corn dogs, funnel cakes, curly fries, and roasted corn are a few more edibles this Edmond company offers.

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Taste of Honey

Honeybees produce a royal treat.

WINTER MEANS DIGGING into the non-perishables. While fresh, locally grown produce is starting to pass its prime, **honey** can last through the winter months and beyond.

"Honey is the only natural food that will never spoil," says Kenny Hammond, president of the Oklahoma State Beekeepers Association. "They even found honey in King Tut's tomb. A lot of it had crystallized, but it was still edible."

Beekeeping, formally known as apiculture, presents lots of learning opportunities—how to prevent bees from

swarming, for instance—and Hammond recommends that novices team up with established beekeepers to learn the tricks of the trade so that the honey may flow in abundance.

"The best thing for a beginner to do is to find a local beekeeping club and join it," says Hammond.

Ancient societies used honey for a number of medicinal purposes. Hammond, for example, takes a tablespoon every morning for his overall health, and locally produced honey even reduces allergic reactions.

"Honey has to be good for you if it lasts forever," says Hammond.

—Patrick Maddox

Recipe for Honey Success

On December 1, the **MINCO HONEY FESTIVAL** gives tours of the Ross Honey Plant, the largest honey-producing facility in the state, and celebrates honey with a bake-off. Visitors are encouraged to bring recipes, like this one from the National Honey Board.

Almond Honey Crunch

- 1 cup slivered almonds
 - ¼ cup honey
 - 1 tablespoon butter
 - 1 tablespoon grated orange peel
 - Dash of salt
 - 2 ½ cups Corn Flakes
- Combine almonds, honey, butter, orange peel, and salt in a heavy frying pan. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until almonds are golden. Remove from heat. Add cereal and mix carefully. Spread on buttered baking sheet. When cool, break into small pieces.

Get This!

Visions of Sugar Cookies

Leave out some made-in-Oklahoma jingle bells, Christmas trees, and stars for Santa. Brown's Bakery in Oklahoma City is catching the Christmas spirit with **sugar cookies** in red, green, and white. Sugar-topped cookies, **\$6.50 per dozen**; frosted cookies, **\$12 per dozen**. (405) 232-0363 or brownsbakery.net.

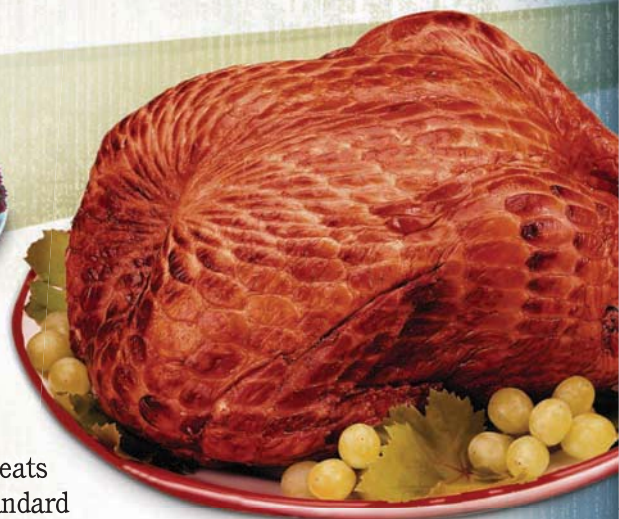
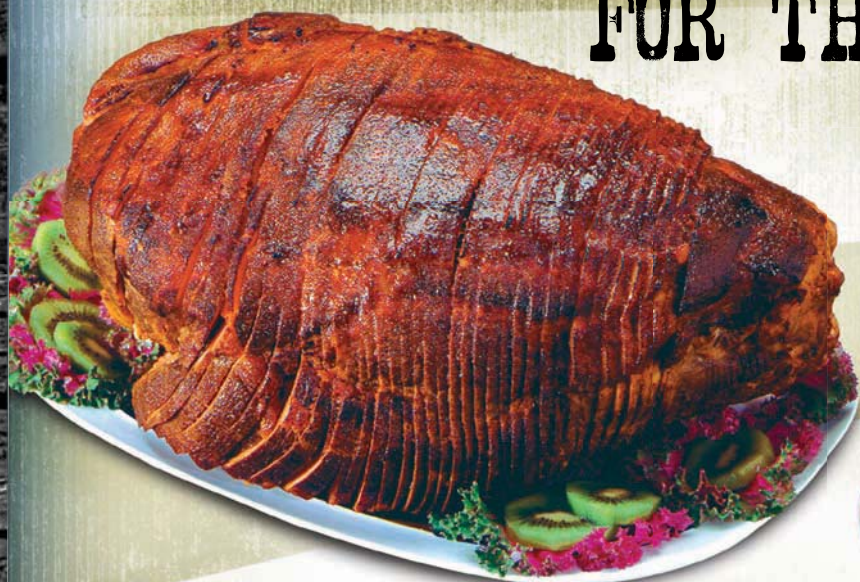
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Party Time

If she can handle the state senate, this fantasy dinner party should be a piece of cake, or at least pecan pie, for Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins.

The Host

Oklahoma's lieutenant governor, Jari Askins, believes Oklahoma has an important story to tell. What better year than the Centennial, then, to gather storytellers from Oklahoma's past and present?

The Location and Menu

Askins' dinner will take place at the Oklahoma History Center, a location that tells the story of Oklahoma. The menu will include food from the state's official meal, adopted by the Oklahoma legislature in 1988. The main course is chicken-fried steak and cream gravy served with fried okra, black-eyed peas, corn bread, and pecan pie for dessert.

The Guests

WILL ROGERS: He is Oklahoma's favorite son and was the greatest storyteller of his time. He wasn't only entertaining; he taught lessons as well. If he visited Oklahoma today, he still would claim that he never met a man he didn't like.

TEA ATA FISHER: She traveled the world for decades meeting kings and presidents, telling stories that illustrated the creative and spiritual side of our Native Americans. This earned her the distinction as the first Oklahoma Cultural Treasure.

GEORGE NIGH: A logical choice as a modern-day Will Rogers with his ability to engage audiences of all ages as he

brings stories of Oklahoma's past and present to life.

RON HOWARD: Born in my hometown of Duncan, Ron is not just a famous actor but has been professionally recognized as one of the world's best filmmakers. Who knows what ideas he might get during dinner with these three storytellers?

SCARLETT GOOCH: A second-grader from Duncan, Scarlett represents Oklahoma's children who need to hear these stories. On a school questionnaire, Scarlett said the best thing about her is that she's from Oklahoma. That's a great beginning for the next generation of storytellers.



Besides the great pizza, regulars know one thing for sure about 2 Brothers Pizza: Blane Gideo's a huge fan of the Duke, so a John Wayne movie is sure to be playing in the background.

Paradise Pie

Thanks to 2 Brothers, Arcadia has become a pizza-lovers' mecca.

IN ARCADIA, **2 Brothers Pizza**, an unfussy restaurant located two blocks from the famous Round Barn, is a perfect mix of Route 66 humility and idiosyncrasy paired with classic favorites.

Blane and Candace Gideo of Edmond opened 2 Brothers Pizza in 2001. Blane, a New York native, grew up in the kitchen, while Candace brought along a lifetime of restaurant experience, having helped her father, Bill Bonadio Sr., run the now-closed Papa's Lil Italy in Oklahoma City for ten years.

After their 1998 wedding, the Gideos knew the days of fast-paced Papa's were coming to a close.

"We wanted to have kids and knew we didn't want to work eighty-hour weeks," says Blane.

In 2001, the couple bought land on Route 66 in Arcadia, and Blane built the thirty-by-forty-foot steel structure that houses the pizza parlor. They named it 2 Brothers Pizza after sons Conner and Jake.

2 Brothers is casual and laid back, pomp and show checked at the door. "Be prepared to eat homemade pizza and relax," says Blane Gideo. "I want my customers to be comfortable, like they're dining in their living room."

The restaurant seats fewer than thirty, and its casual interior lends the feel of a quaint indoor picnic more than a restaurant. Menu selections include hand-tossed pizza with more than a dozen toppings to choose from, plus lasagna, cheese ravioli, eggplant parmesan, and appetizers.

Clayton McDaniel has a soft spot for 2 Brothers. He calls his favorite pie—with pepperoni, onion, green pepper, and tomato—the Clayton Special. His wife, Gina, says, "It's not your regular cardboard pizza. When I eat it, I don't feel like a slug. It's healthier, with fresh ingredients."

—Vallery Brown

2 Brothers Pizza, 210 West U.S. 66 in Arcadia. (405) 396-2288.

Table Secrets

THE OWNER OF 2 BROTHERS PIZZA SPILLS A FEW BEANS.

BLANE GIDEO doesn't hide the recipe for 2 Brothers success: The food is fresh and homemade, the pizza dough and sauces are made fresh daily, and the pizzas are fresh, hand tossed, and huge. What about the secret to the alfredo sauce, a perfect pairing with the cheese ravioli? "No heavy whipping cream," says Blane Gideo. The rest, says wife Candace, will remain a secret.

New Cuisine

El Guapo's Cantina diners can enjoy a rooftop balcony and views of the downtown Tulsa skyline.



Mexican Embassy

Tulsa's newest dining hot spot, El Guapo's Cantina, features Tex-Mex cuisine with a view.

ADD ANOTHER FIRST to downtown Tulsa's burgeoning Blue Dome District: guacamole, chips, and sangria at sunset on the roof of **El Guapo's Cantina**.

Of course, art deco skyscrapers framing the view don't hurt the ambiance, either. It's also worth mentioning that El Guapo's makes its home in a nearly century old, completely rehabbed building complete with exposed brick walls, ducts, and plaster.

The Tex-Mex cuisine, a copious tequila selection, and festive décor (think pinks, greens, and yellows) all add up to one thing: a laid-back place to eat, drink, and rub shoulders with Tulsa's hip and hungry.

El Guapo's (which means "the handsome

one" in Spanish) is the gustatory brainchild of Tulsa's young *über*-restaurateur, Elliot Nelson, twenty-nine, who also owns nearby McNellie's Public House and the Continental bar.

"Tulsa has a lot of Mexican restaurants, but I liked the idea of one downtown," says Nelson, who pinched the name from the movie *The Three Amigos*. "I wanted one with a rooftop patio. That was a big part of the plan from the beginning."

Elevating margarita and enchilada consumption to a third-floor patio in a century-old building, however, is easier dreamed than done. It took nearly a year of intensive rehab work, new water lines, and an internal steel frame to make rooftop dining a reality at El Guapo's.



"We had a blueprint in July 2006, but nothing went as expected," Nelson says. "When you work on older buildings, I guess you have to expect the unexpected."

El Guapo's opened at last in July, giving locals yet another choice for dining out in an area that just a few years ago was about as lively as Sleepy Hollow.

"I like the fact they renovated an old building," says customer Ernie Alcala of Tulsa. "I think this area is coming back. For the longest time you never saw people in downtown Tulsa because dining options were so limited, but now people are coming."

El Guapo's offers a varied menu of traditional Mexican dishes such as *enchiladas de mole poblano* and *pollo verde* along with

EWAN TAYLOR



The food isn't the only treat at El Guapo's Cantina. The cheerful colors and eclectic décor add to the dining experience.

Tex-Mex combos like cheese enchilada dinners and chimichangas served with rice and beans. Appetizers include *ceviche de camaron* (cold shrimp salad "cooked" in lime juice with onion, cilantro, tomato,

and avocado), queso, and guacamole.

Cerveza fria is always good to wash down your mole and beans, and the bar is stocked with ten south-of-the-border brands including Corona, Pacifico, Bohemia, and others.

It may be too cool outside to contemplate a frosty margarita on a rooftop, but El Guapo's obliges with several kinds, backed by an arsenal of four dozen tequilas ranging from unaged whites and rested *reposados* to the subtler *anejos* that have matured for more than a year.

The dangling piñatas and Mexican folk art adorning the plaster and brick walls open up to a stunning third-floor patio with superb views of Tulsa's soaring art deco skyline.

Along with the salsa, this may be the hottest thing in downtown Tulsa on a Saturday night.

—Scott Wigton

El Guapo's Cantina is located at 332 East First Street in Tulsa. (918) 382-7482 or elguaposcantina.net.

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Hot for Teacher

Chef Rene Jungo has instructed a generation of Oklahoma chefs-in-training.

CHEF RENE JUNGO practices what he preaches, and his sermons as director of the Culinary Arts School at OSU-Okmulgee are always about the sanctity of good cooking. A native of Switzerland, Jungo came to OSU-Okmulgee twenty-one years ago after working as a chef in the hospitality industry and owning the Chalet Restaurant in Tulsa between 1982 and 1986. His lessons are spreading the good word about cooking to students who have become culinary professionals in the Sooner State—and beyond.

—Steffie Corcoran

R.E. LINDSEY

WHAT ARE THE QUALITIES OF SUCCESSFUL CULINARY STUDENTS? Attention to detail, tremendous culinary skill, a sense of urgency, and team attitude. You can't be a good culinarian with one speed. That's like having a car with one speed—it doesn't get you anywhere.

JEFF HOWARD



HOW DID YOUR LOVE OF COOKING BEGIN?

At age fourteen, I started working at my father's restaurant in the Hôtel de la Croix Blanche in Marly, Switzerland. This is when I realized there were other things in life besides milking cows, slopping pigs, and attending the neighbor's farm. A chef friend sent postcards from around the world as he traveled, and this awakened a burning desire for travel and excitement.

WHY CULINARY EDUCATION? Since my mother and father were in the field, I acquired the natural abilities and desired to pursue a career.

DO YOU PREFER TO COOK OR BAKE? To cook, because cooking is an art and baking is a science.

WHAT THREE DISHES ARE EASIER TO MAKE THAN PEOPLE THINK? Well-prepared spaghetti with meatballs, grilled seafood and veggies, and rotisserie chicken.

R.E. LINDSEY



FAVORITE COOKWARE? Stainless steel pots and pans, Teflon covered.

DO YOU HAVE A SPECIALTY DISH? Holstein schnitzel, lightly breaded pork tenderloin sautéed and topped with a fried egg.

IF YOU COULD COOK ONLY ONE DISH, WHAT? *Coc au vin*, chicken in red wine, my father, Chef Linus', signature item.

WHO HAS INFLUENCED YOUR COOKING? Chef Linus, my dad, and apprentice chef Carl Reischenbach, my mentor, who returned to Switzerland for part of the year to cook at my father's restaurant. He was seventy-one years old while he was mentoring me and taught me basic knife skills and the fundamentals.



JEFF HOWARD

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CUISINE TO EAT AND COOK? All American, because we are always innovating and changing to adapt to the rapidly changing world of culinary arts technology. European cuisine is conservative. Americans are constantly trying to stay ahead of the fashion. The food here is a fusion of different cultures and is constantly changing, especially with the emphasis on global diversity.

WHAT FOOD TRENDS DO YOU SEE ON THE HORIZON FOR OKLAHOMA? Healthier eating is the trend, using fresh ingredients versus dehydrated, frozen, or canned.

WHAT DISH DO YOU THINK MOST BEFITS OKLAHOMA'S CENTENNIAL? Using a variety of beef, pork, and poultry would complement the Centennial celebration. I want a "Made in Oklahoma" approach, but I want to change it up and make it more innovative.

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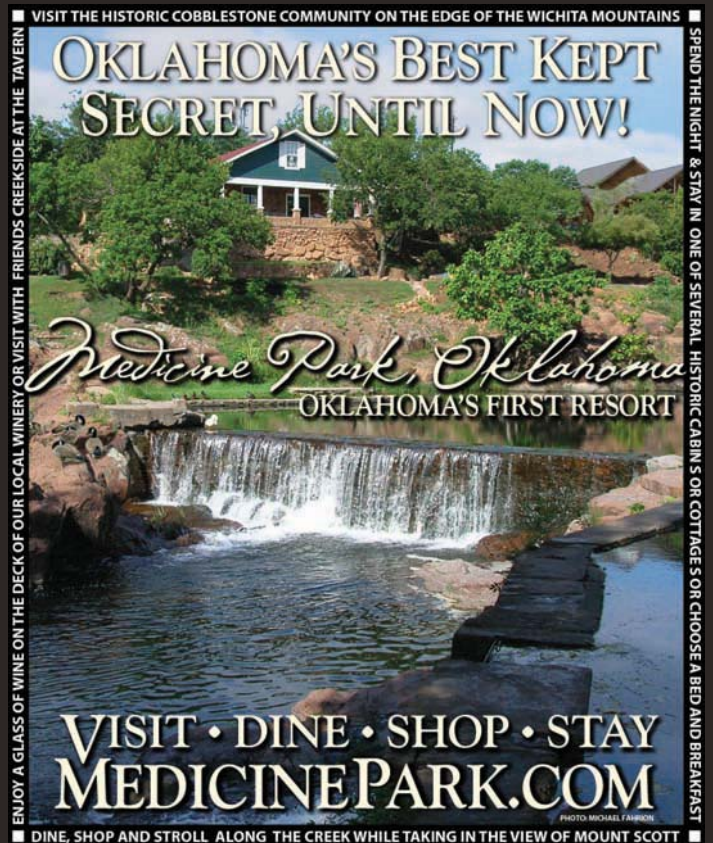
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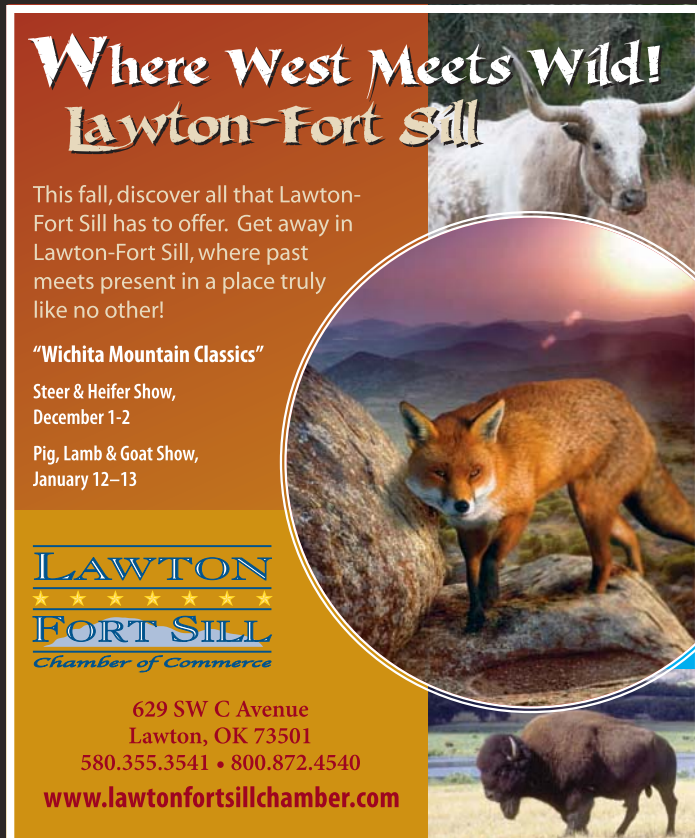
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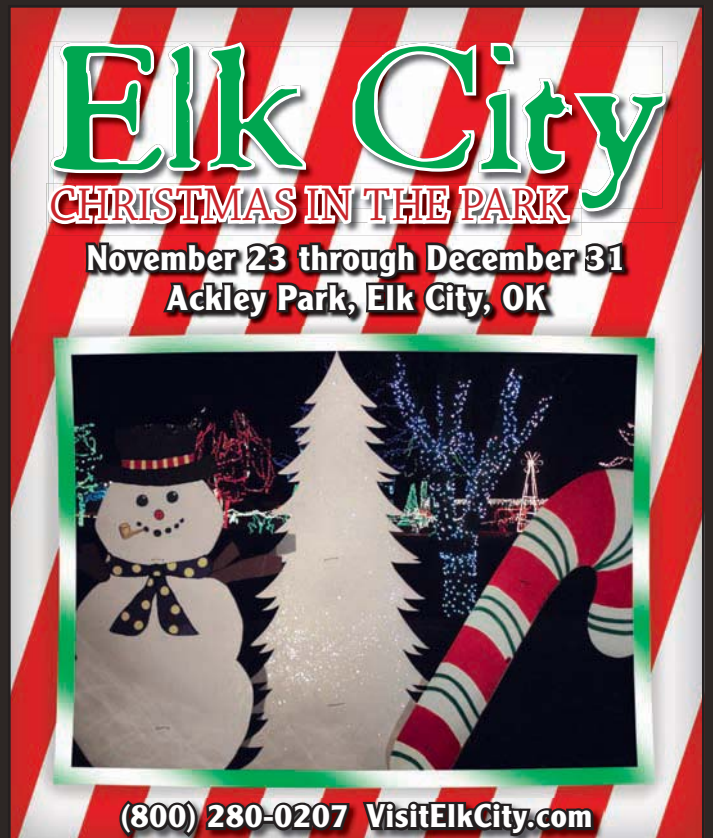
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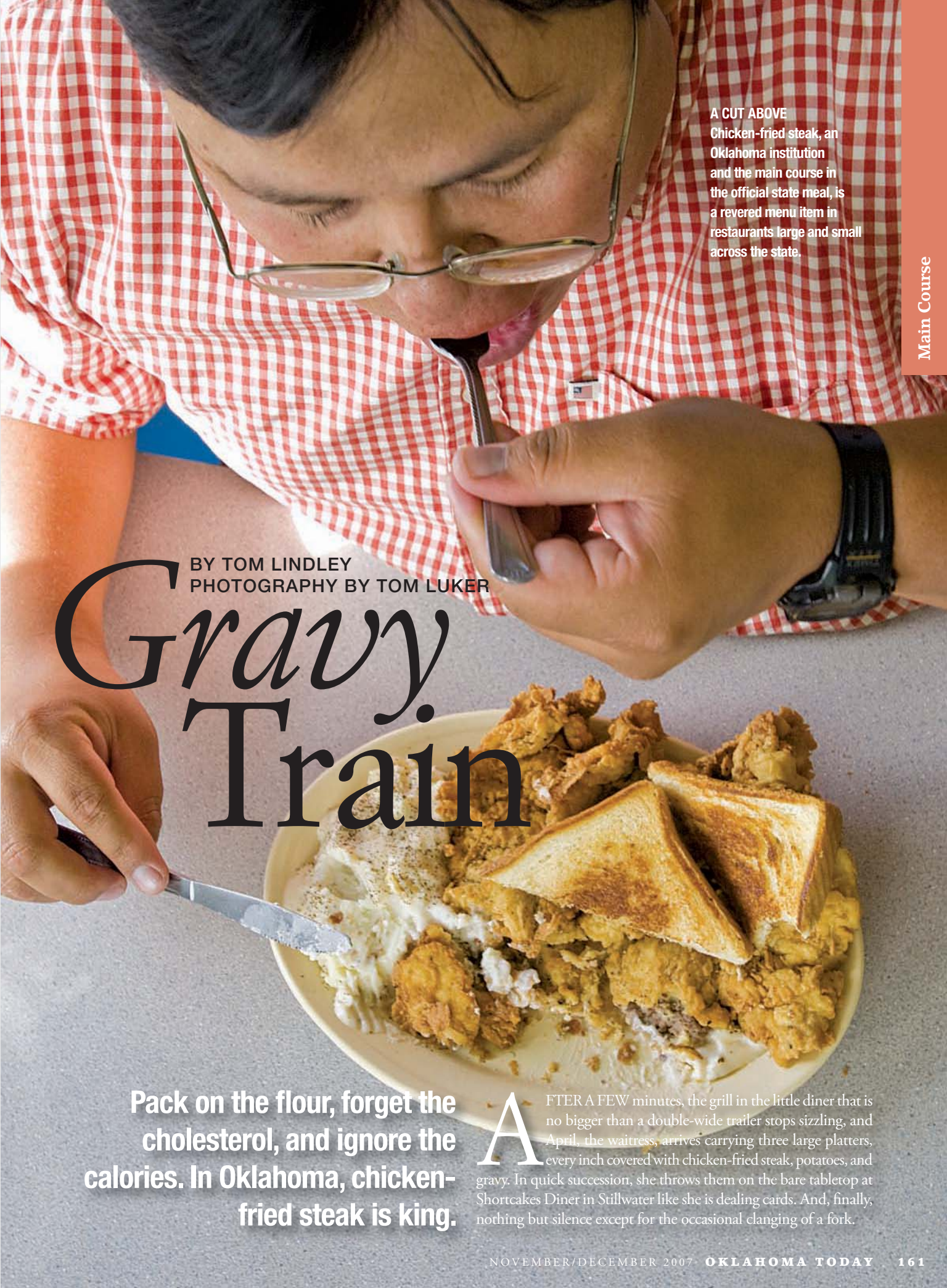
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A CUT ABOVE
Chicken-fried steak, an Oklahoma institution and the main course in the official state meal, is a revered menu item in restaurants large and small across the state.

Main Course

BY TOM LINDLEY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TOM LUKER

Gravy Train

Pack on the flour, forget the cholesterol, and ignore the calories. In Oklahoma, chicken-fried steak is king.

AFTER A FEW minutes, the grill in the little diner that is no bigger than a double-wide trailer stops sizzling, and April, the waitress, arrives carrying three large platters, every inch covered with chicken-fried steak, potatoes, and gravy. In quick succession, she throws them on the bare tabletop at Shortcakes Diner in Stillwater like she is dealing cards. And, finally, nothing but silence except for the occasional clanging of a fork.

“You know, when you’re approaching nirvana, you’ve got to do it in a contemplative mood,” J.D. Strong says, confessing that this is the way a chicken-fried steak meal usually goes down for him and his buddies at Shortcakes, where everything from the hanging lights to the vinyl seats is accented in orange. Proper etiquette here

free from a world of frozen patties and instant mashed potatoes and wrapped his mind around a serious chicken-fried steak can tell the difference. In Oklahoma, that includes about everybody.

“Consistency of the meat, the gravy, and the ambiance,” James McSpadden says, rattling off his personal three-part

As for the ambiance, it doesn’t hurt if you get a little grease on the sleeve of your shirt when you lean back to rest your arms on top of the booth, Strong adds. Clay Pope, who by virtue of his age and experience with all things fried holds rank at the table, simply nods in agreement as he reaches for his iced tea.

Pope, in fact, can still remember his favorite chicken-fried steak of all time at Shortcakes. It was the Sunday after the Oklahoma State homecoming when he was an upperclassman on the Homecoming committee at the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity house.

“We’d been up for seventy-two straight hours building floats and surviving on coffee and Doritos,” he says. “After Homecoming, we got up Sunday morning and made the pledges finish tearing down the house decorations while we went to Shortcakes to get a chicken-fried steak,

‘You know, when you’re approaching nirvana, you’ve got to do it in a contemplative mood.’

demands that you shut up and dive into your plate like a kid opening presents on Christmas morning.

That isn’t to say all chicken-fried steaks are created equal in this land. Unfortunately, only someone who has broken

litmus test for evaluating a true made-in-Oklahoma chicken fry before his disappeared off the plate at Shortcakes. “The meat can’t be too tough, the gravy has to be cream gravy, and the more pickups in the parking lot, the better.”



Shortcakes in Stillwater draws a diverse crowd, ranging from OSU students to lifelong residents.

French fries, and enough iced tea to put out the Chicago fire. That, to me, was a spiritual experience."

A lot of Oklahomans would say amen to that, knowing that a lot of good can come out of a thin piece of round steak that has been beaten senseless, dipped in somebody's grandmother's secret concoction of batter and flour, fried to a crisp, and smothered in gravy.

While nonbelievers can't see past the oil in which it's fried, the chicken-fried steak faithful easily understand why something that can be so bad for the heart can be so good for the soul. Perhaps more than any other main course in Oklahoma, chicken-fried steak is synonymous with home cooking.

For example, Jane Jayroe, the 1967 Miss America from Laverne, gets a warm feeling just thinking about chicken-fried steak because it reminds her of her dad.



Quirky décor adorns a Route 66 favorite, Ann's Chicken Fry House.



Even children learn to appreciate a good meal at Kendall's in Noble.



The legendary chicken-fried steak at Clanton's Cafe in Vinita caught the attention of *Gourmet* magazine in 2006.

Route 66's Favorite Fix

AT CLANTON'S IN VINITA, CHICKEN-FRIED STEAK HAS STAYING POWER.

They have landed in the middle of chicken fry heaven, but the regulars at table nineteen at **CLANTON'S CAFE** are too busy sipping coffee and solving the world's problems to notice. Besides, after all these years, the old-timers figure there isn't anything to say that hasn't already been said about Clanton's famous chicken-fried steak.

"It's like bacon and eggs for breakfast," one of the men says. "You take it for granted you're going to have a good chicken-fried steak."

In the kitchen, Dennis Patrick, who operates the restaurant with his wife, Melissa, is taking careful steps to make sure customers get what they expect. "We take this seriously," he says. "We're not cocky or arrogant about it. We just try to fine-tune what has been an eighty-year evolution."

With his left hand, Dennis reaches for a five-ounce, tenderized cut of cube steak and dips it in a buttermilk batter with chicken base, eggs, and salt and pepper. With his right hand, he then places the steak in a full pan that contains finely sifted flour and salt and pepper.

"The batter shouldn't overcome the flavor of the steak," he says. "You want to keep the flour clean."

Then, using the ball of his right hand, he works the flour into the meat from the center of the cut outward until the steak has grown in diameter from four to about seven or eight inches. He moves a

few feet to another cooking island that contains the flat grill, set on 350 degrees, and fries up Clanton's version of heaven, one side at a time.

Clanton's has been at its current location since 1947. The railroad tracks are on one side, Route 66 on another, making it the oldest restaurant on the fabled highway operated by the same family. Although it gets more than its share of travelers—especially after *Gourmet* magazine named it the

top chicken-fried steak café on Route 66 in Oklahoma in 2006—Clanton's could also serve as Vinita's unofficial town hall.

"Our day-to-day clientele is everybody who works in town: farmers, doctors, lawyers, plant people, the girls at Wal-Mart," Melissa says. "It can be anybody."

One set of photos on the wall is testimony to the cafe's staying power. There's a photo of Grant "Sweet Tater" Clanton, who opened the restaurant in 1927 after failing to make it as a potato farmer. He was followed by his son Cleve and Verda "Ma" Clanton, who built the current building in 1947. The property eventually passed from brothers and sisters to Tom and Linda Clanton, Melissa's parents, who operated it for twenty years.

"My parents came to us and said they were going to sell the restaurant," Melissa says. "We said, 'No, we'll take it.'" That may be why the chicken-fried steak is always a safe bet at Clanton's.





Huge portions are the norm at Shortcakes, and the chicken-fried steak is no exception.

"He was a basketball coach when I was growing up, and we had chicken-fried steak before every game, sometimes three or four times a week," she says. "That was his pregame meal, and I suspect it was comfort food for a lot of people."

Melissa Patrick, whose family has been cooking up chicken-fried steaks at

Clanton's Cafe in Vinita since 1927, does not take the power of the chicken-fried steak lightly, either.

"Around here, this is Oklahoma food," she says. "It's what people are used to when they go out to eat, and it's something they can count on."

NO ONE KNOWS exactly how long after the land run the chicken fry arrived or even how it got its name. What is known is that Oklahoma's current taste for food was shaped by the frontier experiences of the early settlers who often had only a skillet with which to cook. That skillet, along with breading and gravy, was the antidote for a tough cut of meat that had to be stretched to feed a lot of mouths.

"Oklahomans had a lot of ways to make something not that palatable into something that really tasted good," says Rodger Harris, an oral historian with the Oklahoma Historical Society in Oklahoma City.

MEDFORD'S MAGIC

THIS CHICKEN-FRIED STEAK CHAMP HAS FLOWER POWER.

Except to those in the know, the chicken-fried steak remains top secret at Margie Cink's one-stop conglomerate on the prairie.

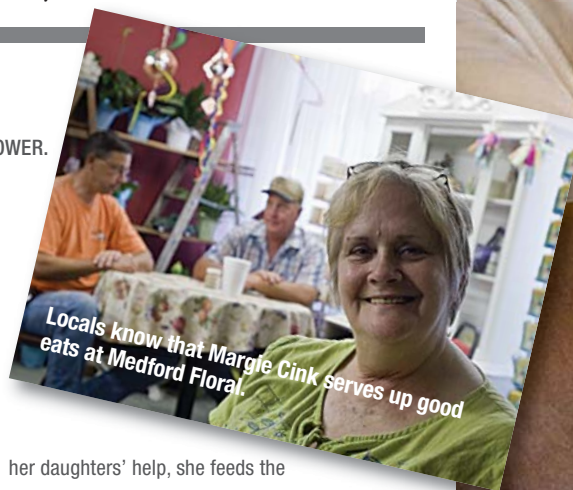
There's nothing on the door of **MEDFORD FLORAL** to indicate a hungry traveler can get a good home-cooked meal inside, much less one of her mouthwatering chicken-fried steaks.

"We just never got around to putting up a sign," she says. "Maybe someday."

In fact, Cink is more likely to rent you a tuxedo, sell you a porcelain angel or a dozen roses, bake you a cake, or help you plan a wedding before she makes you a chicken-fried steak. All of that can be accomplished out of the same building in downtown Medford. Cink also still finds time to do hair on Sundays at her home.

But customers claim her chicken-fried steaks are worth the wait. "'I'm going to tell you something,'" says Bill Fowler. "If Margie ever fixed something that wasn't good, I haven't tasted it yet."

It's not that the 1,046 residents of Medford don't get their fair share of Margie's chicken-fried steak, which she fries six at a time on the grill, sometimes between tuxedo fittings, in the cozy combination cafe, bakery, and floral shop. With



her daughters' help, she feeds the football team the night before every game, and they always want chicken-fried steak. Generally, they are too busy concentrating on their food to notice that they are surrounded by flowers and doo-dahs.

Cink is matter of fact about her success.

"Chicken-fried steak is something you can order anywhere you go, and it'll be about the same thing," she says. However, she does add a secret twist to hers, which makes for a tasty, crispy experience.

There is one more thing you need to know about Cink's chicken-fried steaks. Unless you request otherwise, she will put the gravy on the side, allowing you to decorate it yourself.

Medford Floral, 103 East Cherokee in Medford. (580) 395-2711.





Christina Price has been a manager at Shortcakes for a year and a half.



Clanton's Cafe owner Dennis Patrick demonstrates the art of preparing a chicken-fried steak.



When the gas stove became more common, says Harris, the chicken-fried steak grew in stature. At the height of its popularity in 1988, the state legislature named it one of the main courses in what is called the official Oklahoma meal, a proclamation intended to encourage residents to go out and eat more chicken-fried steak, fried okra and squash, corn bread, barbecued pork, biscuits, sausage and gravy, grits, corn, strawberries, pecan pie, and black-eyed peas.

Needless to say, lawmakers weren't exactly going out on a limb with their recommendations. If they really wanted

to take a stand, once and for all, they would have settled the dispute as to who makes the best chicken-fried steak in the state. But they passed, perhaps knowing chicken fry polls are skewed.

Some, after all, like the meat cut thick so they can taste the steak, whereas others like it cut thin and tenderized to the point that it melts in the mouth. Some want it fried on a grill. Others prefer it deep-fried. Some want cracker crumbs mixed into the flour to make it extra crispy. Others want a light coating of batter.

As part of the complete ensemble, some want mashed potatoes on the side. Others

want fries. And some want biscuits to sop up any remaining gravy, while others prefer a roll or Texas toast.

With so many variations and so many good cooks, it's no wonder the battle for chicken fry supremacy in Oklahoma still rages. The honor easily could go to Clanton's in Vinita, Kendall's in Noble, Cattlemen's Steakhouse in Oklahoma City, the Cattle Rustler's Steakhouse in Ardmore, the Rock Cafe in Stroud, Lucille's in Weatherford, the Tia Juana Restaurant in Enid, or Ann's Chicken Fry House in Oklahoma City. Or even the Medford Floral Shop (no kidding). And there are hundreds of other worthy competitors out there. After all, chicken-fried steak usually still tops the lunch specials at every local cafe.

If forced to pick, Governor Brad Henry says he would opt for the chicken-fried steak in Benton's Cafe in his hometown of Shawnee, JM's Restaurant near his

'Chicken-fried steak faithful understand why something so bad for the heart can be so good for the soul.'



As the restaurant's name implies, Alvin and Shirley Burchett know a thing or two about chicken-fried steak.

NAME YOUR PASSION

ANN'S CHICKEN FRY AND KENDALL'S KNOWS WHAT'S IMPORTANT: HISTORY AND QUALITY.

It's generally easy to spot a restaurant where chicken-fried steak reigns as king. It's the place that makes you feel at home.

Sometimes, it starts with the sign out front. Family names always inspire confidence. **KENDALL'S** restaurant in **NOBLE** is named in honor of co-owners Richard and Kim Lock's oldest daughter. "We thought it'd be a good name, and it has served us well," says Richard Lock. Co-owner Dee Downer estimates that Kendall's has served about 100,000 pounds of chicken-fried steak since he and the Locks took over the restaurant in 1992.

ANN'S CHICKEN FRY HOUSE in **OKLAHOMA CITY** started out as Annie's Café in 1971, but the chicken-fried steak became so popular so fast that Alvin Burchett quickly added "chicken fry" to the restaurant's name when he took over sole operation six months later. That was "well over a million" chicken-fried steaks ago.

Looks matter, too, which means the place has to feel like a cafe, something an interior decorator would be hard-pressed to describe but that chicken-fried steak aficionados immediately recognize the moment they dive into that deep, warm sea of vinyl. Testimonials are always welcome. Ann's Chicken Fry, a famous stopping point on Route 66, has gone through so many guest books that it now asks diners to sign their name on the wall.

Intimacy and service, however, seem to matter most. Chicken-fried steak aficionados expect their glass to be refilled before it's one-quarter empty. They don't want to have to ask for more rolls, and they like to see a skip in the server's step.

In fact, they like to see signs that everyone's busy making them feel at home.



Kendall's in Noble is a favorite spot for locals to dig into a plate full of fried heaven.

family's lake cabin in Eufaula, and the recently closed Hillbillees Cafe on Route 66 in Arcadia.

Of course, he offers an important qualifier: "I don't know how or why chicken-fried steak became such an Oklahoma institution, but I do know Oklahomans feel strongly about the state dish. You can ask ten different Oklahomans where to get the best chicken-fried steak and get ten different answers, but no matter which place you choose, you'll probably have a memorable dinner. Oklahoma restaurants just seem to have a knack for making great chicken-fried steaks."

As the cholesterol-count watch intensifies, concern is brewing that homemade chicken-fried steak will become a lost art, taught only at a smattering of Career Techs around the state by grandmotherly types or a retired short-order cook with

tattoos on both arms. Harris, the historian, senses that a culinary shift may be in the making.

"Our comfort foods have changed," he says, suggesting that over the generations, Oklahomans have moved away from fried chicken, chicken-fried steak, and greasy hamburgers toward the pizza, burritos, tabbouleh, and sushi served at countless ethnic eateries.

But there is no sign of fear at Clanton's, where the big neon sign hanging from the roof proclaims to one and all: "Eat." That's because Melissa and Dennis Patrick are counting on fresh products, home-style cooking, good service, and a friendly atmosphere to win the day.

"This is a great tradition to be proud of, and it's not going down on our watch," she says.

The potential end of an era sends a cold shiver down the back of James McSpadden, whose grandfather, Clem, is an Oklahoma rodeo legend.

"What would young guys who come to OSU and are away from home for the first time do without Shortcakes?" he says.

Almost immediately, everyone at the table looks upward as they listen to pounding on the roof of the cafe, where workers are removing old shingles.

"A new roof is a good sign for Shortcakes—a sign that the chicken-fried steak will be here for decades more, welcoming young Cowboys home," says Strong.

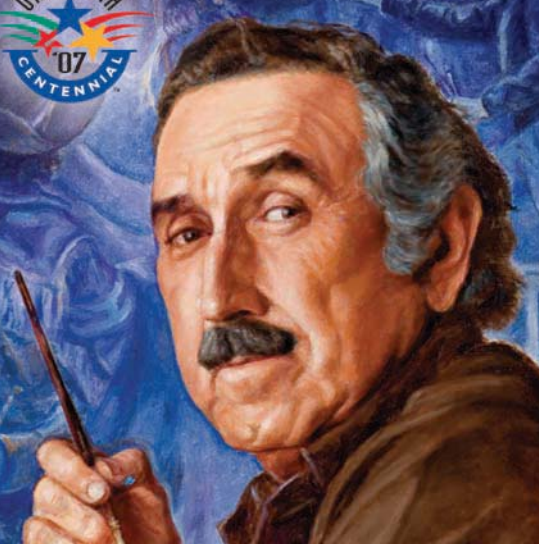
Somebody get the check.



'Oklahoma restaurants just seem to have a knack for making great chicken-fried steaks.'

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Events Guide

Statewide Activities and Happenings

328
Places to Go &
Things to Do

By Vallery Brown

Ardmore

Charles B. Goddard Center 401 1st Ave SW. Nov 15-18, Twelve Angry Jurors. Dec 13-16, The Best Christmas Pageant Ever. (580) 223-6387

Carter County Arts & Crafts Festival Nov 9-10, Hardy Murphy Coliseum. (580) 223-7512

Ardmore Fall Festival Nov 9-11, Ardmore Convention Center. (580) 226-4843

Festival of Lights Nov 18-Dec 30, Regional Park. (580) 223-7765

Bartlesville

Bartlesville Community Center 300 SE Adams. Nov 5, Carl Hurley's Comedy Show. Nov 17, Glenn Dicterow With the Bartlesville Symphony Orchestra. Nov 19-20, Hairspray. (405) 337-2787

Oklahoma Moderne: The Art & Design of Olinka Hrdy Nov 1-Dec 31, Price Tower Arts Center. (918) 336-4949

Fantasyland of Lights Festival Nov 20-Dec 30, Johnstone Park. (918) 327-1795

Woolaroc Wonderland of Lights Nov 23-Dec 16, Woolaroc Museum & Wildlife Preserve. (918) 336-0307

Claremore

Claremore Expo Center 400 Veterans. Nov 9-11, AATRC Team Roping. Dec 7, ACRA Rodeo Year End Finals. (918) 342-5357

Centennial Walk Through History Nov 1-Dec 31, J.M. Davis Museum. (918) 341-5707

Crazy for Crafts Festival Nov 2-3, Cherokee Casino Will Rogers Downs. (918) 283-8800

Will Rogers Birthday Celebration Nov 2-4, Will Rogers Birthplace & Museum. (918) 341-0719

Dickens on the Boulevard Nov 16-17, Historic Downtown. (918) 341-5881

Christmas at the Belvidere Nov 23-Dec 22, Belvidere Mansion. (918) 342-1127

Christmas Parade Dec 1, Downtown. (918) 341-2818

Duncan

Downtown Nov 10, Veterans Day Parade. Dec 1, Christmas Parade & Event. (580) 255-3644

Simmons Center 800 Chisholm Trail Parkway. Nov 13-Dec 4, Silent Christmas Tree & Wreath Auction for

Charity. Dec 1, Leon Russell. Dec 2, Messiah. (580) 252-2900

National Swine Registry Fall Classic Nov 14-17, Stephens County Fair & Expo Center. (580) 255-3231

Burial of 100 Years Capsule & Closing Ceremonies for Centennial Celebration Nov 17, W.T. Foreman House. (580) 251-0027

Edmond

Edmond Historical Society and Museum 431 S Boulevard. Nov 1-30, Rodkey's Flour Mill: An Edmond Icon Exhibit. Nov 6, Heritage Dinner. Nov 10, Scout Saturday. (405) 340-0078

Light Up Edmond Dec 1, Shannon Miller Park. (405) 341-4344

Dickens Weekend Dec 1-2, Historic Downtown. (405) 359-9408

Boys Ranch Town Living Christmas Pageant Dec 7-9, Boys Ranch Town. (405) 341-3606

El Reno

Redlands Community College Fine Art Gallery 1300 S Country Club. Nov 1, Route 66 Today by Michael Wallis. Nov 2, Route 66 Today Bus Tour With Michael Wallis. Nov 9-Dec 14, Kristen Vails. Nov 30, Places Where We Cried. (405) 262-2552

Christmas on the Western Frontier Nov 29, Downtown. (405) 262-8888

Holiday Tour of Homes Dec 6, Citywide. (405) 262-2552

Fort Reno Christmas Dec 16, Fort Reno. (405) 262-3987

Enid

Cherokee Strip Conference Center 123 W Maine. Nov 17, Taste of St. Joes. Nov 24, Santa's Showcase. (580) 233-5582

Champagne & Chocolates Nov 2, Continental Tower North. (580) 237-7294

Kingfisher

Fairgrounds 300 S 13th St. Nov 10, Craft & Gift Show. Nov 10, Kool Kars in Kingfisher. (405) 375-4455

Kingfisher in Lights Nov 21- Dec 30, Kingfisher Park. (405) 375-4455

Chisholm Trail Museum & Pioneer Village Open

House Dec 2, Chisholm Trail Museum. (405) 375-4455

Muskogee

Five Civilized Tribes Museum 1101 Honor Heights. Nov 3-30, Masters Art Show. Dec 1-31, Invitational Art Show. (918) 683-1701

Veteran's Day Parade Nov 10, Downtown. (918) 684-6302

Boare's Head Feast Nov 17, the Castle of Muskogee. (918) 687-3625

Toys From the Past Exhibit Nov 21-Dec 28, Three Rivers Museum. (918) 686-6624

A Christmas Carol Dec 7-15, Muskogee Little Theatre. (918) 683-5332

OETA Program Notes

NOVEMBER

6: The People's House, 9 p.m.

Stateline explores the history and legend of the Oklahoma Governor's Mansion.

12: Dream No Little Dream: The Legacy of Robert S. Kerr, 8 p.m.

A profile of one of Oklahoma's most well-known politicians

16: Oklahoma Centennial Spectacular, 7 p.m.

A celebrity-studded concert that defies genre. Everyone from the Flaming Lips to Toby Keith will be at the Ford Center.

DECEMBER

6: Oklahoma World War II Stories, 7 p.m.

Stories of Oklahoma World War II veterans offer insight into the lives of soldiers.

31: New York Philharmonic New Year's Eve featuring Joshua Bell, 7 p.m.

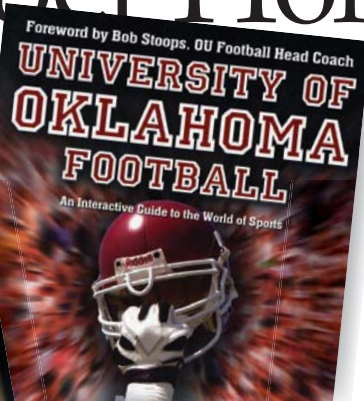
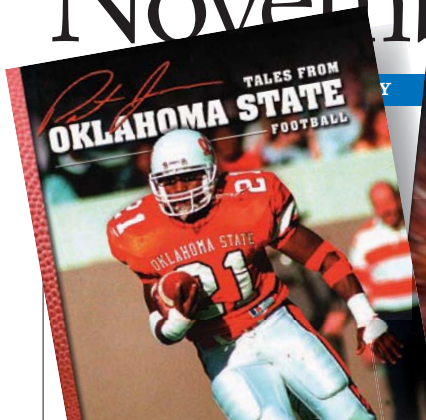
Straight from Lincoln Center in New York City, guest violinist Joshua Bell and the orchestra will dazzle audiences across the nation.

"With the mantle of their spirit upon our shoulders, let us march on into a brighter and more glorious dawn."

—Robert S. Kerr

November Holly

By Liz Blood and Cristi Lacquer



		THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3
		Get your literary kicks at the Route 66: The Mother Road Journey luncheon at El Reno's Redlands Community College, plus a book signing by Michael Wallis. 10 a.m.	Anyone who's interested in learning more about Christianity may want to attend the Women of Faith conference at the Ford Center in Oklahoma City. 7 p.m. Through November 3.	Laugh and learn with Miss Fay's Centennial Day Marionette Play at the Museum of Pioneer History in Chandler. This performance kicks off Family Film Day. 10 a.m.
4	▲ 5	6	7	10
One of our state's greatest is remembered on the last day of Will Rogers Days at Robson Performing Arts Center in Claremore and the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Tulsa. 2 and 5 p.m.	Pat Jones' Tales from Oklahoma State Football and University of Oklahoma Football: An Interactive Guide to the World of Sports are sure to satisfy Okie football fans.	The film honoring Robert S. Kerr, Dream No Little Dream: The Legacy of Robert S. Kerr premieres tonight at the Oklahoma City Civic Center Music Hall. 7 p.m.	It's all about horseplay at the American Quarter Horse Association World Championship Show at State Fair Park in Oklahoma City. 8 a.m. Through November 17.	There's no place like the home front in Jenks at the Tulsa Technology Center's Celebrate Freedom Big-Band Hangar Dance & Aircraft Exhibit . 10 a.m.
11	▶	13	14	15
There will be an aircraft flyover, World War II anti-tank gun firing, and music at the 45th Infantry Division Museum's Veterans Day Ceremony in Oklahoma City. 10 a.m.		Whether lounging around the house or out on the town, ladies will look pretty in pink sporting an I Love Oklahoma Tee . \$15.95 to \$16.95. oklahomacentennial.com.	The colors of fall are exploding all over the state. The Ouachita National Forest is a hot spot, but Red Rock Canyon State Park near Hinton offers beautiful foliage, too.	Redlands Community College Fine Arts Gallery hosts paintings by Oklahoma artist Kristen Vails . Vails often includes western subjects in her art. Through December 14. 8 a.m.
▼ 18	19	▼ 20	21	22
Eager feet hit the pavement today at the Route 66 Marathon in Tulsa. Beginning at Veteran's Park, participants will run a 26.2-mile loop for the Tulsa Area United Way. 8 a.m.	Head four ways at once at the Native American Heritage Celebration at the State Capitol in Oklahoma City. This year's theme is Four Directions of Native Oklahoma. 11 a.m.	Visitors to Chickasha's Festival of Light Opening Ceremony at Shannon Springs Park will enjoy dazzling fireworks and live entertainment. 6 p.m. Through December 31.	With Thanksgiving just hours away, the Frankoma Centennial Trivet will add cheer to your kitchen while keeping your stovetop gravy-free. \$16. oklahomacentennial.com.	Celebrity Oklahomans will bring Sooner pride to the streets of the Big Apple at the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade . 8 a.m. on NBC. In between sips of coffee, take a look.
▼ 23	▲ 24	26	28	29
Oklahoma City is the place to celebrate the season. Downtown in December begins today with outdoor ice skating, snow tubing, and more. Through January 1. 6 p.m.	Tension is in the air as the OU Sooners and OSU Cowboys go at it in a Bedlam game at the Gaylord Family-Oklahoma Memorial Stadium in Norman. Kickoff time TBA.	Hooray for history! The We Know We Belong to the Land: 100 Years of Oklahoma and Congress exhibit is on display at the Norman Public Library. 9 a.m. Through November 30.	Get your Chevy out of park and get to the Park of Lights . The colorful display of Christmas lights is located on S.H. 137 in Fairland. 6 to 9 p.m. Through December 29.	It'll be a ho-ho-hoedown today at downtown El Reno's Christmas on the Western Frontier , with an old-fashioned Christmas parade and rides on the Heritage Express Trolley. 6 p.m.
30				
Festive fanfare is coming down the lane at Sand Springs' downtown 2007 Festival of Lights Christmas Parade , Oklahoma's largest and oldest nighttime Christmas parade. 7 p.m.				

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December Jolly

By Cyndy Southerland and Patrick Maddox

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Happy Holly Days! Everyone knows Christmas is in the air when Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee hosts the annual Hanging of the Green in Raley Chapel. 7:30 p.m.
2 Toot! Toot! The Oklahoma State Centennial N-Scale Model Train , proudly displaying Oklahoma colors and images, rumbles into State Fair Park in Oklahoma City. 11 a.m.	3 It'll be barrels of fun watching more than 1,000 horses compete at the World Barrel Futurities 2007 World Championship at State Fair Park. \$5. Through December 8.	4 Floats, decorated horses, and antique tractors bound along Main Street. Plus, the crowd gets a visit from Santa at the Christmas Parade and Chili Cook-off in Davis. 5 p.m.	5 Relax during lunch hour in the middle of holiday season by treating yourself to Brown Bag It , a free holiday concert at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center. 11:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m.	6 Live music, photos with Santa, and free museum admission highlight the Holiday Happening at Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History in Norman. 6 p.m.	7 Air is a mighty hard substance to pin down, but the exhibit Air Play at the Tulsa Air & Space Museum includes ten exhibits about the mysterious compound. Through January 20.	8 Bells will be ringing at the Jingle Bell Run/Walk on Brookside and Holiday Costume Contest at 35th and Peoria in Tulsa. 9 a.m.
	10 Santa will be making a special stop at the Oklahoma City Zoo today for Santa Delivers , featuring complimentary photos for children and hot chocolate. 10:30 a.m.	11 A Night Before Christmas Museum Open House at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City features historical characters and a choir. 6 p.m.	12 Don't let your inner-Scrooge keep you from the Pollard Theatre in Guthrie to see A Territorial Christmas Carol: An Oklahoma Tradition , 8 p.m. Through December 23.		14 Lights and wagon rides await at the Woolaroc Wonderland of Lights at the Woolaroc Ranch, Museum, & Wildlife Preserve near Bartlesville. 5 p.m. Through December 21.	
16 Ward off evil spirits with holiday gunfire at El Reno's Fort Reno Christmas Guns/Fireworks . The ceremonial firing of the guns, plus food and stories, are sure to please. 2 p.m.	17 Visitors can view the world's largest collection of holiday inflatables from the comfort of their cars at Christmas Kingdom at the Castle of Muskogee. 6 p.m. Through December 31.		19 It wouldn't be Christmas without an official Centennial Christmas Ornament . The festive bling comes in gold, green, or red. \$10.95. oklahomacentennial.com.	20 ▲ Hark! The Stillwater Community Singers sing. These songbirds will be putting on their annual Holiday Concert at the Stillwater Community Center tonight. 7:30 p.m.	21 Christmas is in full swing at the Belvidere Mansion in Claremore. The home will be adorned with Victorian ornaments, and some will be for sale at the gift shop. 10 a.m.	22 Winter is afoot at the Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center in Spiro. Winter Solstice Walks offer a tour and history of the mounds. \$3 adults, \$2 children. 11 a.m.; 2 and 7 p.m.
	24 31 Close out the Centennial year with Opening Night in downtown Oklahoma City, featuring music and fireworks. 7 p.m.	25 Santa's eaten all the cookies we left out for him, the presents have all been opened, and now there's only one thing left to do. Have yourself a Merry little Christmas!	26 Light displays and Christmas trees decorate neighborhoods and living rooms across the state. Be sure to soak in the last sights of the season before it all comes down.	27 The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art in Norman presents Reflections: Historic and Contemporary Works of the Martinez and Gonzales Families . 10 a.m. Through January 6.	28 Forty thousand people will tour Ponca City's Festival of Angels Holiday Lighting Celebration , with displays throughout the city. 6 to 10 p.m. Through December 31.	29 Relax and ride through the Lake Eufaula State Park Holiday Light Tour . Catch the tram for \$1 at the Deep Fork Campgrounds. The lights will be on from sunset to 10 p.m.

Grand Lake ☉ the Cherokees

Grand Lake, Monkey Island, Oklahoma

CROWN
POINTE

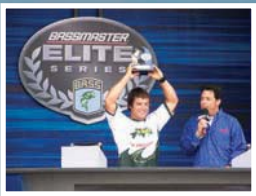


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Brothers in Arms

'TIS THE SEASON FOR BASKETBALL IN DOWNTOWN OKLAHOMA CITY.

For most, the holiday season is a time for celebration with family and friends. For the Sutton family, it means a basketball battle royale.

Head coach Sean Sutton's Oklahoma State Cowboys will go head to head with younger brother Scott Sutton's Oral Roberts Golden Eagles. Their two teams meet on the hard court at the Ford Center in Oklahoma City on December 20 as part of the **ALL-COLLEGE BASKETBALL CLASSIC**.

The head coach sibling rivalry is the first in the event's seventy-two-year history, quite a feat, considering the All-College Classic was originally a basketball tournament that preceded the NCAA,

NIT, and NBA tournaments. Following the OSU-ORU match, the featured game of the night pits the OU Sooners against the Gonzaga Bulldogs.

Keeping with the family theme, the York International Basketball Adventure, a family basketball festival with food, entertainment, and basketball clinics, will bring even more fun to the adjacent Cox Business Services Convention Center.

— PATRICK MADDOX

The OSU-ORU game will be on December 20 at 6 p.m., followed by the OU-Gonzaga game at 8:30 p.m. (405) 235-8288 or okcallsports.org.

Norman

Cleveland County Fairgrounds 615 E Robinson. Nov 3, Neosha Open Horse Show. Nov 3-4, 23-24, Creative Craft Festival. Nov 10-11, Dec 1-2, Col. Dick's Antiques & Collectibles Flea Market. (405) 360-4721

Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art 555 Elm. Nov 1-Dec 31, Out of Oklahoma: Contemporary Artists from Ruscha to Andoe. Nov 18, Family Day. (405) 325-4938

Jacobson House 609 Chautauqua. Nov 1-25, The Inner Culture of Mirac Creepingbear (Kiowa/Arapaho). Dec 2-22, Scandinavian Cultural Christmas Exhibition: Iceland. (405) 366-1667

Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History 2401 Chautauqua. Nov 1, 8, 15, Global Climate Change. Nov 1-Dec 31, Collecting Oklahoma: An Oklahoma Centennial Exhibition. Nov 9, Family Night Out: Bird Feeders. Nov 16, Oklahoma Statehood Day. Dec 6, Holiday Happening. Dec 13, Blood Drive. (405) 325-4712

Animal Defenses Nov 10, Little River Zoo. (405) 366-7229

Holiday Show Nov 16-Dec 31, Firehouse Art Center. (405) 329-4523

Oklahoma Nutcracker Dec 15-16, Sooners Theatre. (405) 321-9600

Oklahoma City

Civic Center Music Hall 201 N Walker. Nov 3, My Homeland. Nov 9-10, The Von Trapp Children. Nov 30-Dec 1, A Very Merry Pops. Dec 2, A Canterbury Christmas. Dec 7-22, Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol. Dec 7, 14-16, The Nutcracker. (405) 297-2264

Ford Center 100 W Reno. Nov 2-3, Women of Faith. Nov 16, Oklahoma Centennial Spectacular. Dec 2, Miley Cyrus & Hannah Montana. (405) 602-8700

JRB Art at the Elms 2810 N Walker. Nov 2, Annual Sale of Small Works by Noted Artists. Nov 2, Tom Stotts: Paintings. Dec 7, Martha Green: Mixed Media. Dec 7-31, Christmas at the Elms. (405) 528-6336

National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum 1700 NE 63rd. Nov 1-Dec 30, Fort Marion Ledger Art Exhibit. Nov 3-4, Saturdays for Kids: Inventions of the West. Nov 29, Small Works, Great Wonders Winter Art Sale. Dec 1, Saturdays for Kids: Old-Fashioned Ornament Making. Dec 11, A Night Before Christmas Museum Open House. Dec 14, Michael Martin Murphey's Christmas Ball. (405) 478-2250

Oklahoma City Museum of Art 415 Couch. Nov 14, Pompeii: Stories From and Eruption. Dec 1-2, The Baroque World of Fernando Botero. Dec 19, French Art Nouveau Ceramics. Dec 20-31, Paris 1900. Dec 27-30, Moulin Rouge. (405) 236-3100

Oklahoma City Zoo 2101 NE 50th. Nov 21, Free Day at the Oklahoma City Zoo. Dec 1-31, Free Zoo Admission Mondays in December. Dec 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Deck the Zoo. Dec 10, Santa Delivers. (405) 425-0289

Oklahoma Lights up the Night!

Altus Christmas in the Park

Free train rides around the park. Santa will be in the park nightly, November 17 to December 31, 6 to 10 p.m. (580) 481-2265.

Ardmore Festival of Lights

Ardmore Regional Park. Take Exit 33 off I-35 (north of Highway 142). Viewing Dates: November 17 to December 30, Sunday through Thursday, 6 to 10 p.m., Friday & Saturday, 6 to 11 p.m. (580) 223-7765.

Chickasha Festival of Light

An Official Oklahoma Centennial Event, the drive-thru/walk-thru has over 3.5 million lights and 100 lighted displays including the 16-story Christmas. Experience our NEW musically choreographed light show! November 20 to December 31, 6 to 11 p.m. (405) 224-XMAS (9627), www.Chickasha-FestivalofLight.com, festolight@aol.com.

UCO's WinterGlow in Edmond

UCO presents carriage rides, Santa's workshop with photos, contests, music, food, karaoke, and more! 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., November 29 on the campus of UCO in Edmond.

Elk City Christmas in the Park

Ackley Park on Historic Route 66. November 23 to December 31, 6 to 11 p.m. Free activities every Friday and Saturday night from 6 to 9 p.m. (580) 225-0207, www.visitelkcity.com.

Enid Lights up the Plains

Downtown Enid Courthouse Lawn. Opening Night celebration Friday, November 23, 5 to 7 p.m. Carriage rides, lights, Santa, fireworks, and fireworks. Light display runs November 23 to January 1, 2008. (580) 234-1052.

Guthrie Territorial Christmas Celebration

Oklahoma's true Centennial City shines throughout December with activities. Come enjoy an "Oklahoma Christmas 1907" with special Victorian Walks. 5 to 9 p.m., December 8 and 15. (405) 282-1947 or (800) 299-1889, www.guthrieok.com.

Kingfisher in Lights

Over 75 displays light up Oklahoma Park from November 21 to December 30. Miniature train rides nightly. Sunday through Thursday, 6 to 10 p.m., Friday & Saturday 6 to 11 p.m. (405) 375-4445.

McAlester Parkway of Lights

Downtown. Main Street to Strong Boulevard on Carl Albert Parkway (Hwy 270). Seven city blocks of beautiful lighted displays. December 1-31. (918) 420-3976.

Midwest City Holiday Lights Spectacular

Oklahoma's largest animated light display with over one million lights! Joe B. Barnes Regional Park (SE 15th & Century Blvd.). November 16 to December 30, Sunday to Thursday, 6 to 10 p.m., Friday & Saturday, 6 to 11 p.m. (405) 739-1293.

Muskogee Garden of Lights

Drive through the Garden of Lights with over a million lights in Honor Heights Park. Thanksgiving to January 1, 2008, www.cityofmuskogee.com. Drive through the Castle's Kingdom with more than 1,000 Christmas inflatables. Stop at Santa's workshop to make Christmas gifts by hand at the Castle of Muskogee, www.okcastle.com

Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children Drive-Thru Christmas Pageants

Live scenes and heartwarming portrayals illustrate the life of Christ. **Boys Ranch Town, Edmond:** December 7-9, 7 to 9 p.m.; **Baptist Children's Home, OKC:** December 14-16, 6:30 to 9 p.m.; **Baptist Children's Home, Owasso:** December 7-9, 7 to 9 p.m.; **Baptist Homes for Girls Festival of Lights, Madill:** December 7 & 8, Dusk to 10:30 p.m.; (405) 942-3800, ext. 4628, www.obhc.org

Ponca City Festival of Angels

Over 260 animated light displays in four city-wide locations. See Oklahoma Heritage In Lights to celebrate Oklahoma's Centennial year at Marland's Grand Home. Begin your tour at Cann Memorial Gardens—14th and Grand Ave. November 21 to December 30, 6-10 p.m. (580) 762-4567. www.festivalofangels.net

Woodward Crystal Christmas

Over 2 million lights adorn Crystal Beach Park from November 17-December 31. Open Sunday-Thursday 6-10 p.m. and Friday-Saturday 6-11 p.m. Driving or walking tours, gift shop, live nativity, hay rides, and Santa Claus. (800) 364-5352 or www.woodwardchamber.com

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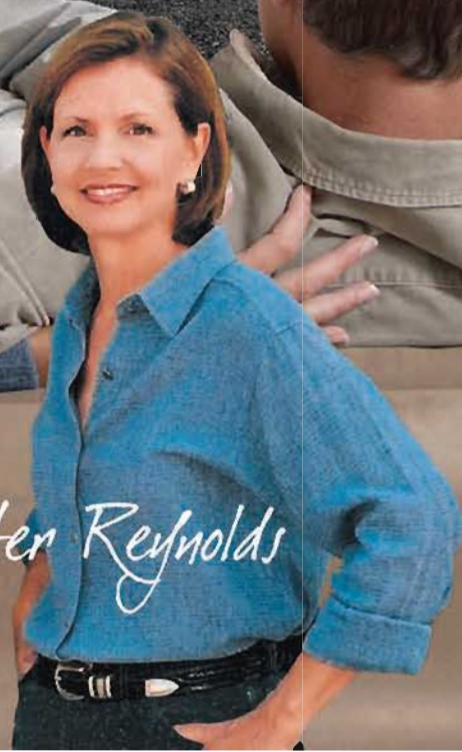


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State Fair Park I-44 & NW 10th. Oklahoma Nov 3-4, Mineral and Gem Society Show. Nov 3-17, World Championship Quarter Horse Show. Nov 16, American Quarter Horse Association Statue Dedication. Nov 22-Dec 2, National Reigning Horse Futurity. Dec 3-8, World Barrel Racing Futurity. (405) 948-6704

Untitled ArtSpace 1 NE 3rd. Nov 3-4, Master Artist Workshop in With Deborah Riley. Dec 8-9, Printing with Texture: Collagraphy. (405) 815-9995

Blue October, Yellow Card, Shiny Toy Guns, and Lovedrug Concert Nov 1, Coca-Cola Bricktown Events Center. (405) 236-4143

Country & Gospel Music Shows Nov 1-Dec 31, Oklahoma Opry. (405) 632-8322

The Eagle in American Indian Art & Custom Nov 1-Dec 31, Red Earth Museum. (405) 427-5228

Kilaueas Coast Nov 1-30, Myriad Botanical Gardens. (405) 297-3995

Veteran's Day Ceremony Nov 11, 45th Infantry Division Museum. (405)424-5313

Oklahoma Centennial Lecture Series Nov 15, Oklahoma City Community College. (405) 232-3382

Native American Heritage Celebration Nov 19, State Capital Rotunda. (580) 795-8100

Home for the Holidays Dec 6-9, Oklahoma City University School of Music. (405) 408-5227

Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting and Parade Dec 7, City Hall. (405) 236-8666

Opening Night 2008 Dec 31, Downtown. (405) 270-4848

Ponca City

Poncan Theatre 104 E Grand. Nov 15, Byron Berline. Nov 16, The Capitol Steps. Nov 17, Thunderhead Joe & the Medicine Show. Nov 23-Dec 8, A Tuna Christmas. (580) 765-0943

Fly-In Breakfast Nov 3, Dec 1, Ponca City Airport. (580) 767-0470

Tablescapes: Friends of the Marland Grand Home Fundraiser Nov 3-4, Marland Grand Home. (580) 762-5635

Veterans Day Parade Nov 10, Downtown. (580) 765-9073

Festival of Angels Holiday Lighting Celebration Nov 21-Dec 30, Citywide. (580) 762-4567

Hometown Holiday Weekend Dec 1-2, Grand Ave. (580) 763-8082

Gordon Matzene Dec 2-7, ArtsPlace Ponca City. (580) 762-1930



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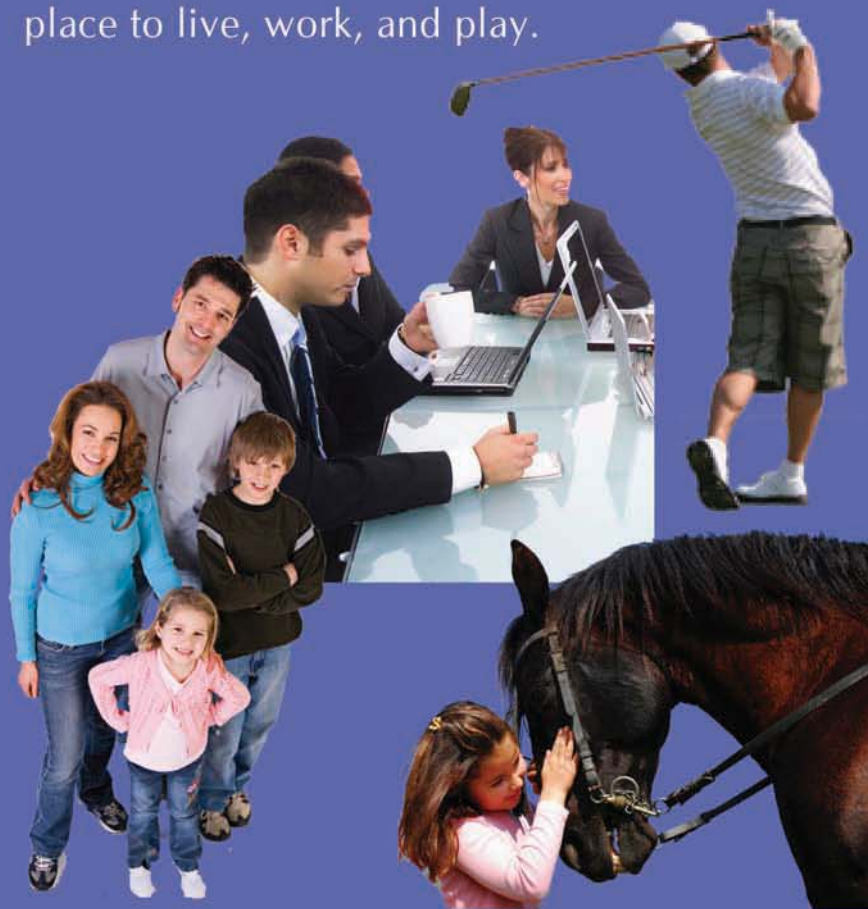
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Calendar

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We can agree concerning
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crimson
pure like sin.

Master designer,
random process?
Neither satisfy
the demands of intuition.

But we can agree
about beauty
and we can agree
that beauty trumps ignorance
and that ignorance
is all that we know
with certainty.

—Ken Hada

Ken Hada is an associate professor in the Department of English and Languages at East Central University in Ada.

Shawnee

Heart of Oklahoma Exposition Center 1700 W Independence. Nov 2-3, Red Dirt Book Festival. Nov 17-19, Garland Arts & Crafts Show. (405) 275-7020

Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art 1900 W MacArthur. Nov 1-25, Here and There: The Worlds of Rose-Lynn Fisher. Nov 21-30, Pentimento. (405) 878-5300

Maze & Pumpkin Patch Nov 1-3, Wolverine Road. (405) 401-8217

Christmas Parade Dec 6, Downtown. (405) 273-1080

Stillwater

Gardiner Art Gallery 108 Bartlett Center for the Performing Arts. Nov 1-9, The Centennial Annual Faculty Exhibition. Nov 14-20, Studio Capstone Exhibition. Nov 28-Dec 7, Graphic Design Capstone Exhibition. (405) 744-6016

Fall Festival, Arts & Crafts and Home Show Nov 2-4, Payne County Expo Center. (405) 757-7206

Stillwater Quilting: Past & Present Nov 9-10, First



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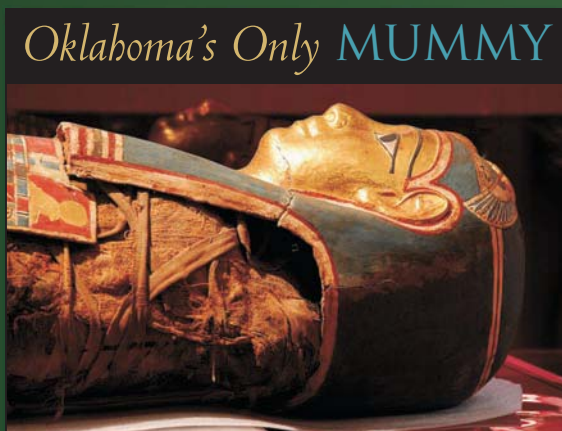
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United Methodist Church. (405) 372-1039

Christmas Parade of Lights Dec 6, Downtown. (405) 624-2921

Stillwater Community Singers Holiday Concert Dec 20, Stillwater Community Center. (405) 624-8680

Tahlequah

Downtown Dec 5, Tahlequah Christmas Stroll, Dec 7, Christmas Parade of Lights. (918) 431-1655

Thompson House Victorian Christmas Nov 30-Dec 2, Thompson House. (918) 456-3742

Tulsa

Brady Theater 105 W Brady. Nov 10, Tanya Tucker. Nov 16, Blue October/Yellowcard/Shiny Toy Guns. Nov 23, The Australian Pink Floyd Show. Nov 29, George Jones. (918) 582-7239

Expo Square 4145 E 21st. Nov 2-4, Green Country Arabian Horse Association. Nov 3-4, High Plains Paso Fino Horse Show. Nov 7, Pinto Congress. Nov 9, Carson & Barnes Circus. Nov 16-18, An Affair of the Heart. Nov 28-Dec 2, Oklahoma Hunter Jumper Assn.

Nov 30-Dec 2, Oil Capital Stampede. Nov 30, Dec 2, 15, 30, Tulsa 66ers. Dec 1-2, Sooner Grand National Gun & Knife Show. Dec 6-8, Farm Show. Dec 27, Tournament of Champions. Dec 29, Tulsa Shootout. (918) 744-1113

Gilcrease Museum of Art 1400 Gilcrease Museum. Nov 1-4, American Art in Miniature. Nov 1-Dec 31, Charles Banks Wilson: An Oklahoma Life in Art. Nov 1, 15, Kids Dig Books: Immigrants, From Sea to Shining Sea. Nov 3, Gilcrease Kids: Abstract Mixed Media. Nov 3, Weekend Workshops: Impressionist Still Life on Oils. Nov 5-28, Art Sparks. Nov 10, 17, Studio Gilcrease for Teens. Nov 17, Gilcrease Kids. Nov 20, The Jeff Shadley Group. Dec 1, Gilcrease Kids- Black & White Portraits. Dec 1-15, Gilcrease Art Studios: Watercolor. (918) 596-2700

Philbrook Museum of Art 2727 S Rockford. Nov 1-4, The Career of S. Herbert Hare: Landscape Architect for Villa Philbrook. Nov 1-Dec 30, Focus 4: Lucy Gunning. Nov 1-Dec 31, Life Drawing: Open Studio. Nov 11-Dec 31, Frank Lloyd Wright & the House Beautiful. Nov 18-Dec 2, Festival of Trees. (918)

749-7941

Tulsa Convention Center 100 Civic Center. Nov 1-4, Mid-Continent Kennel Club. Nov 2-Dec 22, Tulsa Oilers. (918) 596-7177

Tulsa Garden Center 2435 S Peoria. Nov 9-10, Tulsa Garden Club Show. Dec 1, Carols & Crumpets. (918) 746-5125

Tulsa Performing Arts Center 110 E 2nd. Nov 2, The McDades. Nov 2-4, In White. Nov 3, Sickle Cell Musical Extravaganza. Nov 6, United States Army Commodores Band. Nov 9, Harlan Coben. Nov 9, Tom's & the Library Lady. Nov 10, An Evening of Contrast. Nov 13-18, Ring of Fire. Nov 19, Catalina: Hollywood's Magical Island. Nov 23-25, The Adventures of Alex Birdsong. Nov 23-Dec 1, Brian Storms. Dec 5, Holiday Concert. Dec 6-23, A Christmas Carol. Dec 8, Hope for the Holidays. Dec 13-22, The Santaland Diaries. Dec 15-23, The Nutcracker. Dec 21-23, A Song of Winter. (918) 596-7122

Saturday Morning Birding Nov 1-Dec 1, Mary K. Oxley Nature Center. (918) 669-6644



Political activist Paula Unruh



Ballerina Moscelyne Larkin



Cowgirl Lucille Mulhall

Little Women

AN UNUSUAL COLLECTION COMES TO BARTLESVILLE.

A troupe of little ladies is moving into the Woolaroc Ranch, Museum, and Wildlife Preserve Events Center in Bartlesville this fall. Porcelain replicas of about thirty legendary Oklahoma women will be on display at the museum from November 16 through December 31. The dolls travel as the **OKLAHOMA WOMEN IN HISTORY** exhibit, which celebrates the lives of the women.

Jaymie Mathena of Vinita, artist of the mini masterpieces, has created likenesses of Oklahoma women like Kate Barnard, the first woman to be elected to statewide office, Lucille Mulhall, America's first cowgirl, and Mary Rogers, mother of Will Rogers, as an Oklahoma Centennial Project.

"It's important to remember the women from all walks of life who are important in Oklahoma history," Mathena says.

—RAYA-GABRIELLE RAMSEY

The Woolaroc Ranch, Museum, and Wildlife Preserve is located at 1925 Woolaroc Ranch Road in Bartlesville. (918) 336-0307 or woolaroc.org. To reach Mathena, visit portraitsinporcelain.net.

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Cottonwood Leaves in Autumn

Before autumn descends into winter,
The cottonwoods in the prairie stream bed
Shine golden as if they glowed from within.
Winter will arrive soon enough,
And the branches will be barren for months.
I linger as I pass the cottonwood,
As if I could store this sight for winter,
The way farmers bale hay in summer
For their cattle in the coming snow.
Memory consoles with a warmth of its own.
It is not only hope for spring
That will get me through the cold.
I will remember the gold of endings,
The gentle rain of cottonwood leaves.
I will be ready to let winter in.

—Howard F. Stein

Howard F. Stein is a professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine at the OU Health Sciences Center.

Portrait of Historic African American Leaders Nov 1-Dec 31, Rudisill Regional Library. (918) 596-7280
1st Sunday Centennial Lecture Series: Discover Oklahomans Nov 4, Tulsa Air & Space Museum. (918) 834-9900
Friday Night Folk Dancing Nov 2-Dec 28, All Souls Unitarian Church. (918) 587-5604
Tulsa Golden Hurricane vs. Houston Nov 10, Skelly Stadium. (918) 631-4688
Christmas Parade of Lights Dec 8, Downtown. (918) 583-2617

Out & About

ANTLERS Christmas Parade of Lights, Dec 8, Downtown. (580) 298-2488
BIXBY Arts & Crafts Show, Dec 1, Community Center. (918) 366-4841
BLACKWELL Christmas Hometown Holidays, Dec 1-31, Citywide. (580) 363-4195
BRAGGS Old-Fashioned Christmas Party, Dec 8, Greenleaf State Park. (918) 487-7125
BROKEN BOW Beavers Bend Folk Festival and Craft Show, Nov 9-11, Oklahoma Forest Heritage Center. (580) 494-6497
CHANDLER Lincoln County Territorial Militia Ball &

Veterans Day Celebration, Nov 9-10, Old Chandler Armory & Downtown. (405) 258-0673
CHECOTAH Lake Eufaula State Park Holiday Light Tour, Nov 23-Dec 31, Lake Eufaula State Park. (918) 689-4607
CHICKASHA Festival of Light, Nov 20-Dec 31, Shannon Springs Park. (405) 224-9627
CLINTON Festival of Lights, Nov 27, Frisco Avenue. (580) 323-2222
CORDELL Oklahoma Centennial Celebration, Nov 15, Historic Downtown Square. (888) 267-3355
DEL CITY Greater Oklahoma Bluegrass Music Society Concert/Jam, Nov 10, Dec 8. Oklahoma Country-Western Museum & Hall of Fame. (405) 677-7515
DEWEY Christmas Arts & Crafts Show & Sale, Nov 17-18, Washington County Fairgrounds. (918) 333-0560
DRUMRIGHT Scream Country Haunted House & Forest Nov 2-3, 51853 W 101st S. (918) 607-3327
ELK CITY Christmas in the Park, Nov 23-Dec 31, Ackley Park. (580) 225-0207
EUFAULA Christmas Parade, Dec 1, Main Street. (918) 689-2534
FAIRLAND Park of Lights, Nov 22-Dec 29, Twin Bridges State Park. (918) 540-2545
FAIRVIEW World's Oldest Free Fly-In and Air Show, Nov 10, Municipal Airport. (580) 227-3788
FORT GIBSON Fort Gibson 1848 Candlelight Tour, Dec 8-9, Fort Gibson Historic Site. (918) 478-4088
FREDERICK Christmas Parade, Dec 8, Downtown. (580) 335-2126
GUTHRIE Statehood Week Celebration, Nov 10-17, Historic Downtown Guthrie. (405) 282-1947
HINTON Christmas Craft & Gift Show, Dec 8, Hinton School Auditorium. (405) 542-3433
HOBERT Christmas Tour of Homes, Dec 2, Citywide. (580) 726-5185
HOMINY Christmas Tour of Homes, Dec 2, Fred Drummond Home. (918) 885-2374
HULBERT Lights in the Park, Dec 1, Sequoyah Resort Park. (918) 772-2046
JENKS Homeschool Day, Nov 8, Oklahoma Aquarium. (918) 296-3474
LAWTON Women's Pioneer Club's Tea & Trunk Show, Nov 17, Museum of the Great Plains. (580) 458-0252
MARLOW Christmas Parade. Dec 1, Main Street. (580) 658-2212
MAYSVILLE Wiley Post Story Ride to Read, Nov 3, Maysville Public Library and Maysville Elementary. (405) 867-4748
McALESTER Christmas Parade of Lights, Dec 6, Downtown. (918) 423-2550
MIAMI Route 66 Christmas Parade, Dec 1, Downtown. (918) 542-4481
MIDWEST CITY Holiday Lights Spectacular, Nov 16-Dec 30, Joe B. Barnes Regional Park. (405) 739-1293
MINCO Honey Festival, Dec 1, Citywide. (405) 352-8960

NOWATA One Hundred Years of Nowata County Christmas Parade, Dec 1, Cherokee Street. (918) 273-2301
OKMULGEE Dripping Springs Rendezvous, Nov 8-10, Dripping Springs State Park. (918) 756-5971
PAWHUSKA Lighted Christmas Parade, Dec 1, Downtown. (918) 287-1208
PAWNEE Festival of Lights Parade, Nov 24, Downtown. (918) 762-2108
POCOLA Oklahoma Centennial Celebration, Nov 17, Downtown. (918) 436-2500
POTEAU The Centennial Chuck Wagon Gathering: The Road to Statehood, Nov 16-17, Fairgrounds. (918) 647-4191
PRYOR Powwow, Dec 15, MidAmerica Expo Center. (918) 824-2787
PURCELL Chickashsha Inkana Native American Festival, Nov 17, Purcell Public Library. (405) 527-5546
SAPULPA Winterfest Parade and Holiday on Main, Dec 1, Downtown. (918) 224-0170
SAYRE Christmas Bazaar, Dec 1, Methodist Church Life Center. (580) 928-3386
SPIRO Winter Solstice Walks, Dec 22, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center. (918) 962-2062
TONKAWA Olde Tyme Christmas Celebration, Nov 29, Downtown. (580) 628-2220
VIAN Women of the Outdoors, Nov 10-11, Tenkiller State Park. (918) 489-5641
VINITA Christmas Parade of Lights, Dec 6, Downtown. (918) 256-7133
WILBURTON Fall Trail Ride, Nov 11, Hickory Creek Farm. (918) 753-2607
WISTER Christmas Lights on the Island, Dec 8-29, Lake Wister State Park. (918) 655-7756
WOODWARD Crystal Christmas, Nov 17-Dec 31, Crystal Beach Park. (800) 364-5352
YUKON Christmas in the Park, Dec 17-Dec 31. City Park and Chisholm Trail Park. (405) 354-1895

Visit oklahomatoday.com or travelok.com for more listings.

Dates and times are subject to change; please confirm before attending any event. The Events Guide is a free service published on a space-available basis. To be considered, please mail a notice of the event that includes date, place, address, and both a contact telephone number and a phone number that can be published. Notices must arrive at *Oklahoma Today* at least three calendar months prior to publication (i.e. March/April 2008 events must arrive by December 1). Events Guide, *Oklahoma Today*, 120 North Robinson, Suite 600, Oklahoma City, OK 73102. Fax: (405) 230-8650. Email: eventsguide@oklahomatoday.com. We cannot take listings over the telephone.

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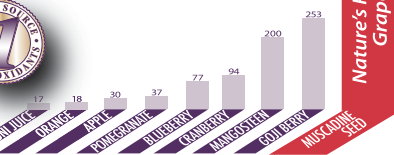
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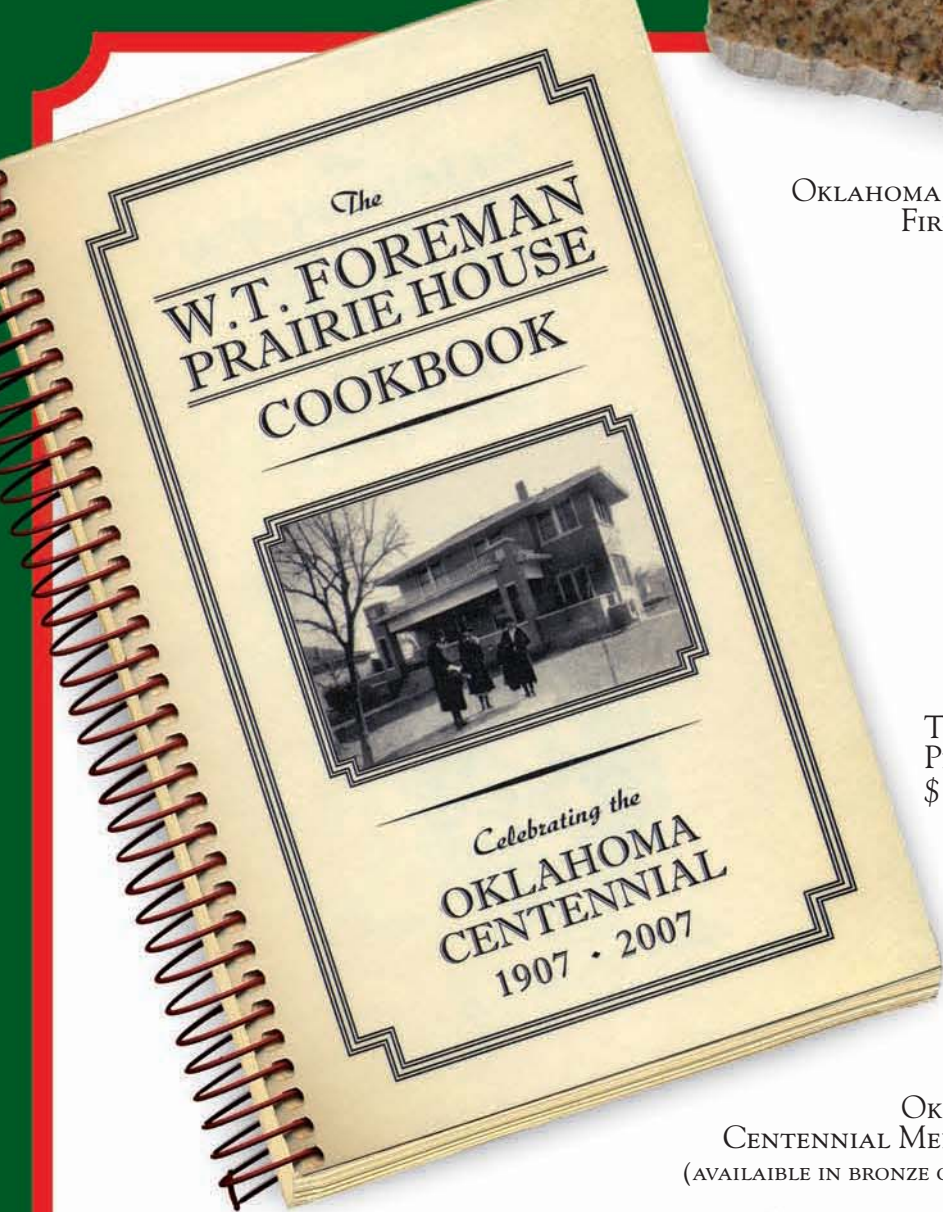
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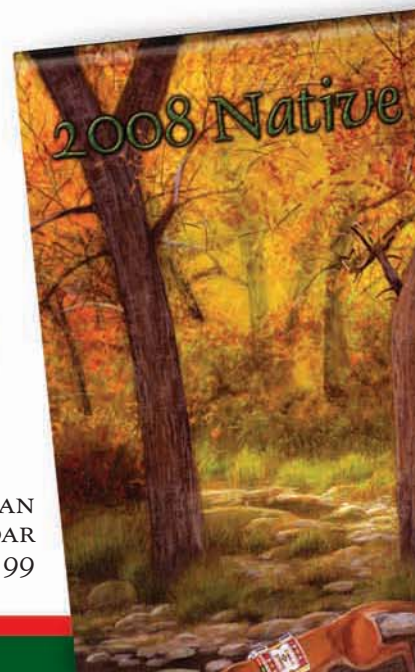
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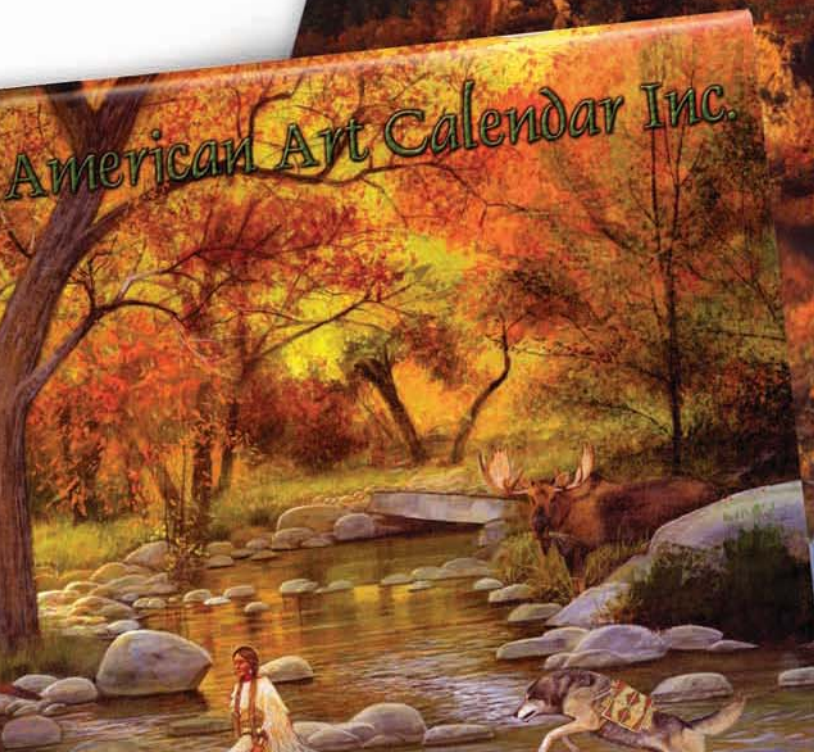
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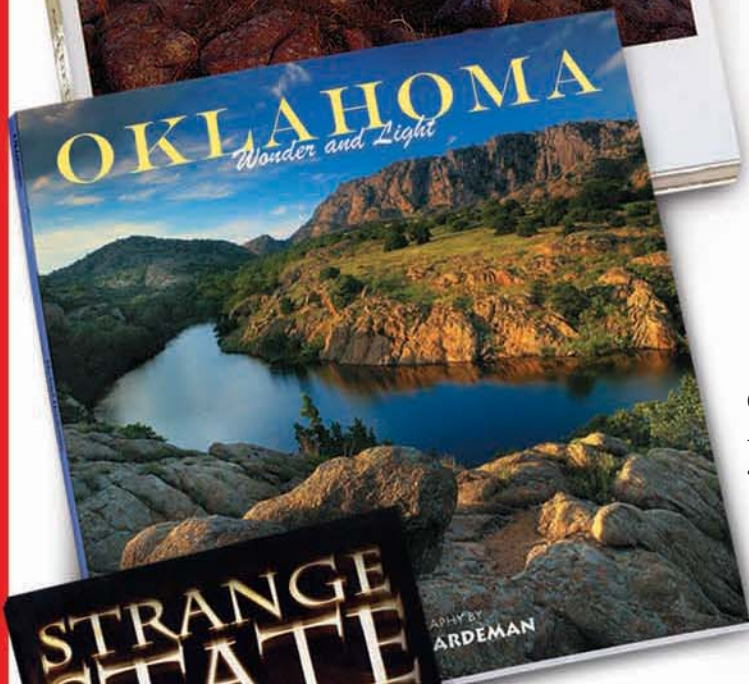




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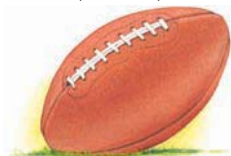
Future Shock

OKLAHOMA TODAY
Quiz

100 Years Hence, Where Will We Be?

CHANGE IS THE only constant. As Oklahoma matures into a ripe old age, the state will undergo inevitable changes in everything from population to the number of bloggers on the Internet. *Oklahoma Today*, after consulting with statisticians, offers its lighthearted projections, adjusted for inflation, of what residents should expect in 2107. The numbers in parentheses indicate current figures. — Research by Patrick Maddox

1. Population of Oklahoma: **5,349,192** (3,579,200)
2. Population of Guthrie: **28,885** (10,920)
3. Median home price: **\$229,767** (\$95,030)
4. Estimated annual income of a family doctor or general practitioner: **\$343,364** (\$152,133)



5. Cost of an OU-Texas football ticket in the student section purchased through the OU Athletic Ticket Office: **\$813** (\$95)
6. Average high temperature in November: **50.3 degrees** (50.2 degrees)
7. Total number of Miss Americas: **11** (5)
8. Average number of times per issue the word *Bicentennial* will appear in *Oklahoma Today*: **975** (*Centennial* appeared 160 times in the September/October 2007 issue)
9. Average number of pages per issue in *Oklahoma Today*: **604** (124)



10. Number of top female executives of Oklahoma companies: **13,005** (4,453)
11. Number of Grammy Award-winning country performers from Oklahoma: **43** (14)
12. Number of restaurants and roads named after Grammy Award-winning country performers from Oklahoma: **10** (3)
13. Cost of resident undergraduate tuition per credit hour at OU, excluding fees: **\$440** (\$109)
14. Estimated cost of a visit to a doctor's office: **\$1,225** (\$125)
15. Combined estimated value of eight issues of the Centennial Collectors Series of *Oklahoma Today*: **\$80** (\$40)



16. Average daily expenses: **\$251.50** (\$135.61)

17. Tribal membership in Oklahoma: **308,798** (243,385)
18. Number of McDonald's in Oklahoma City: **74** (38)
19. Percent of Oklahomans who are Hispanic or Latino: **21.4 percent** (6.6 percent)
20. Number of Oklahomans who use the Internet as a primary source for news: **4,619,220** (572,672)

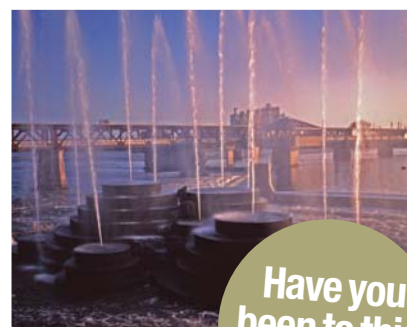


21. Number of native Texans living in Oklahoma: **379,208** (228,640)
22. Number of native Oklahomans living in Texas: **262,833** (368,346)
23. Number of Oklahomans born outside the U.S.: **791,860** (155,880)
24. Number of Oklahomans who identify themselves as evangelical Protestant: **2,219,407** (1,431,694)

25. Number of Oklahomans who identify themselves as mainline Protestant: **702,859** (453,400)
26. Number of Oklahomans who ascribe to a religion other than Christianity: **61,659** (39,775)
27. Percent of Oklahoma houses with only one occupant: **34 percent** (28 percent)
28. Percent of Oklahoma houses with a family of five: **3 percent** (6 percent)
29. Percent of Oklahoma population in the Oklahoma City or Tulsa metro areas: **70 percent** (58 percent)



30. Number of locally-owned, nonfranchise hamburger restaurants in Oklahoma City: **37** (19)
31. Average number of minutes Oklahomans commute to work: **20.5** (20.1)



Have you been to this place?

Last issue's winners are Dale Evans of Weatherford, Kathy J. Koen of Drummond, and Minnie Catherine Costa of Sanger, California. The answer to the September/October contest was Tucker Tower.

Where Are You?

Look to the east.

THE ARKANSAS RIVER waters hundreds of acres between Sand Springs and Jenks. As it meanders through Tulsa County, its banks include more than twenty miles of paved trails, picnic tables, playgrounds, and fountains. During the holidays, the area around Zink Dam is awash in Christmas lights around the Pedestrian Bridge. Can you name this urban recreation spot?—Vallery Brown

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PERFORMANCES AND PRODUCTIONS

"The Gin Game"

presented by Lawton Community Theatre
November 9-11, 15-18

"Holiday Memories"

presented by Blue Moon Productions
November 16, 17, 23, 24

"Wit"

presented by Cameron University
November 15-19

"Holiday in the Park"

in Elmer Thomas Park, Lawton
November 17 – December 31

"Wichita Mountain Classics"

Steer & Heifer Show, December 1–2
Pig, Lamb & Goat Show, January 12–13

"Handel's Messiah"

presented by Schubert Music Club
December 8

"77th Army Band Holiday Concert"

presented by Lawton Constitution
December 11

"Cowboy Story Hour"

presented by Barking Water Productions
December 15

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